

I SHOULDN'T  
BE THE NEXT  
TEST SUBJECT.  
I NEED TO  
OBSERVE  
THE SPELL,  
REMEMBER?

THOUGH, I GUESS  
I CAN DO THAT  
AND BE THE TEST  
SUBJECT, BUT...

I'LL GO  
NEXT.

PLEASE...

ALLOW  
ME TO  
HOLD YOU  
IN MY  
GIANT  
ARMS.

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE PROPERLY TO  
ASHLEY, AND I DON'T WANT TO GO  
LUMBERING OVER THERE LIKE GODZILLA.

IF SOME-  
ONE COULD  
MAKE ME  
HER SIZE...

PLEASE  
HOLD ME.

I'M EVER  
SO SMALL.

AND... WOULD THE SHRINK  
SPELL CONFLICT WITH ME BEING  
A GIRL? I COULD BE SHORTER  
THAN HER THAT WAY.

THAT SHOULD WORK.

PICK ME UP?

HMPH.

BWUH.

SUSAN?  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

I'M FINE. JUST  
FEELING REDUNDANT  
AND UNNECESSARY.

EVEN MY SENTENCES HAVE  
BECOME REDUNDANT.

BECAUSE  
OF DIANE?

SO YOU NOTICED. GREAT.

WHAT I NOTICED WAS  
YOU BEING A GRUMP, AND  
THE TIMINGS THEREOF.

I'M SURPRISED  
YOU NOTICED  
ME AT ALL. I'M  
WASTED SPACE  
AT PARTIES.

MEANWHILE,  
SHE'S A  
SOCIALE  
CHEERLEADER  
WHO, OF  
COURSE, IS  
JUST AS  
SMART AS I  
AM, IF NOT  
SMARTER.  
BECAUSE  
WHY NOT.

I'M GOING TO TELL HER ALL THE  
BAD THINGS DIANE HAS SAID AND  
DONE IN THE PAST THAT MIGHT  
BE UNFAIR TO BRING UP NOW.

DON'T  
YOU  
DARE!

YOU ARE NOT  
WASTED SPACE.  
YOU'RE OUR FRIEND.  
JUST YOU BEING  
HERE MAKES IT A  
BETTER PARTY.

YOU DON'T NEED  
TO PUT ON SOME  
SHOW FOR US.

I HYPOTHESIZE, MY DEAR NANASE,  
THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN MY LAST  
NAME IS "POMPOMS".

OH. RIGHT. UH...

ALSO, DIANE'S NOT SMARTER THAN  
YOU. SHE'S GOT A SHERLOCK POMPOMS  
THING GOING FOR HER, BUT YOU'RE WAY  
SMARTER THAN HER IN GENERAL.

DON'T FEEL BAD. I TRY  
TO FORGET THAT, TOO.

I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, NANASE, BUT... WELL, LOOK AT HER. SHE'S ALREADY FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE.

OH, PLEASE, THEY BARELY EVEN KNOW HER.

EVERYTHING THEY KNOW ABOUT HER AT THIS POINT IS SUPERFICIAL.

SHE'S AN OUTGOING EXTROVERT WHO'S GOOD AT LOOKING COOL.

SHE COMES OFF AS COOL WITHOUT REALLY NEEDING TO KNOW HER, SO...

...SO SHE'S EASY TO PROJECT ONTO... MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT BASED ON WHAT THEY WANT TO BE TRUE... BASED ENTIRELY ON APPEARANCES...

PEOPLE CAN THINK SHE'S COOL WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING A THING ABOUT HER...

OR ACTUALLY CARING ABOUT HER...

ARE YOU STILL TALKING ABOUT DIANE, OR DID YOU JUST HAVE SOME SORT OF UPSETTING PERSONAL EPIPHANY THAT WE SHOULD FOCUS ON INSTEAD?

I CAN DO TWO THINGS! AND NO!

THE PROBLEM ISN'T REALLY DIANE, I WANT HER TO MAKE FAST FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE, IT'S JUST...

THERE'S A PAINFUL NUMBER OF THINGS SHE DOES NATURALLY THAT I WISH I COULD DO.

BUT I'M AN INTROVERTED NUT WITH PHYSICAL CONTACT ISSUES.

SUSAN, I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR YOU CALL YOURSELF THAT AGAIN.

AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S PART-SQUIRREL NEARBY.

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I COULD SAY TO  
MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER  
ABOUT ALL THIS, AND  
MAYBE I'M NOT WHO  
YOU WANT TO TALK  
TO ABOUT STUFF...

THOUGH, IF  
YOU WANT  
TO, I'LL  
LISTEN...

...BUT YOU'RE IN A BASEMENT FULL OF  
PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU. PLEASE DON'T  
SPEND THE PARTY ALONE IN A CORNER.

NOT LIKE I WAS GOING  
TO SPEND THE WHOLE  
PARTY HERE. I'D NEED  
FOOD AT SOME POINT.

REALLY,  
NANASE.

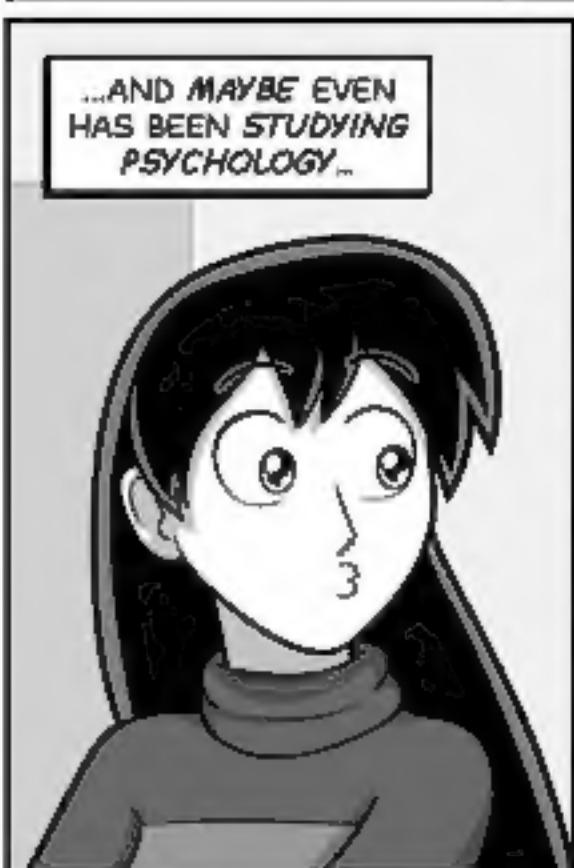
HEY!  
HEY,  
SUSAN!

DIANE?

SARAH WAS WONDERING  
IF YOU WANTED TO WORK  
ON "HUG PRACTICE"?

IT'S COOL IF YOU DON'T. SHE  
SENT ME TO BE LESS GODZILLA-EE  
WHILE GOING BY ASHLEY.

YES.  
YES I  
DO.



EEEEEE I  
LOVE NOT  
KEEPING  
SECRETS!

CONFIRMED.  
SARAH'S AS TALL  
AS SHE SHOULD BE.  
GIRLIFICATION AND  
SHRINKING MAY  
PROCEED.

I DON'T SUPPOSE  
EVERYONE ELSE  
WOULD WANT TO  
SHRINK, TOO. IT  
WOULD BE NEAT  
TO FEEL GIANT.

YOU COULD  
JUST GROW  
YOURSELF.

I PREFER  
MY WAY.



Within Tedd's mind, a conflict for focus...





I'M SORRY, ARE YOU RESISTING THE SPELL?

I WASN'T TRYING TO, BUT MAYBE A GIANT TRYING TO SHRINK ME FROM BEHIND PUT UP MY DEFENSES?

YEAH SORRY

NO, THAT'S NOT IT. THE WAND'S JUST OUT OF JUICE. NOT THAT SHOCKING. I DID TEST EVERY SPELL EARLIER.

STILL... SARAH, HAVE YOU USED YOUR SPELL WHILE HERE?

MINE? WHILE HERE? NO.

I'VE KEPT UP CASTING IT, BUT I HAVEN'T USED IT HERE TODAY.

HUH. WOW. YOU MUST REALLY BE DOING A NUMBER ON THE EXCESS AMBIENT ENERGY. I CAN'T IMAGINE WE'VE USED MUCH OF IT JUST MESSING AROUND WITH THIS WAND.

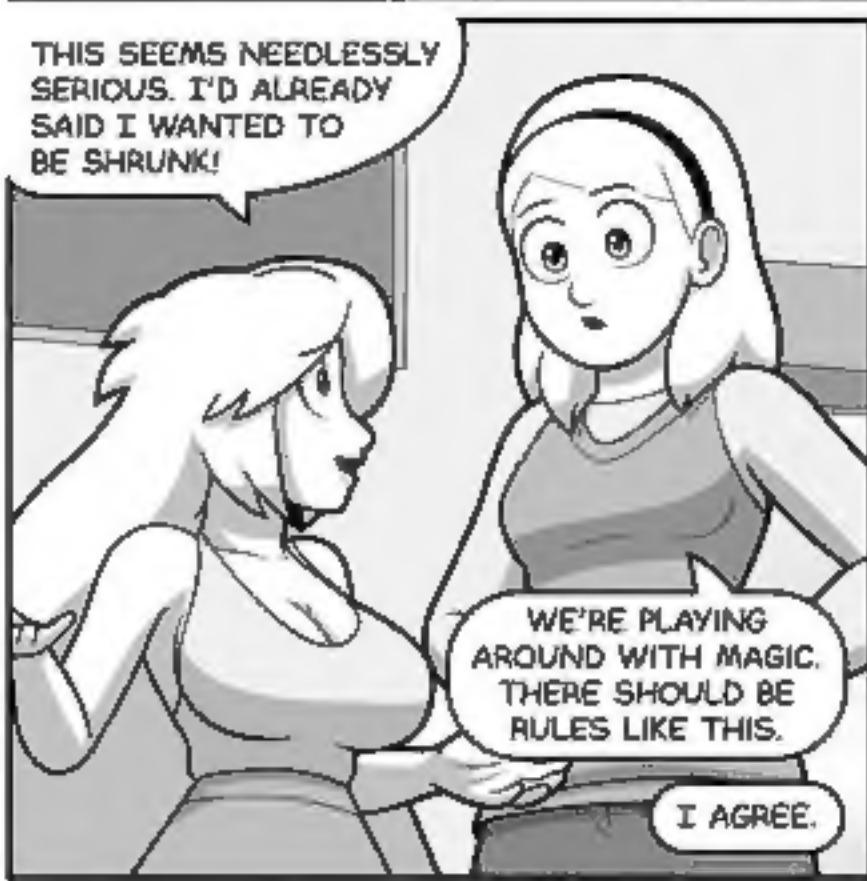
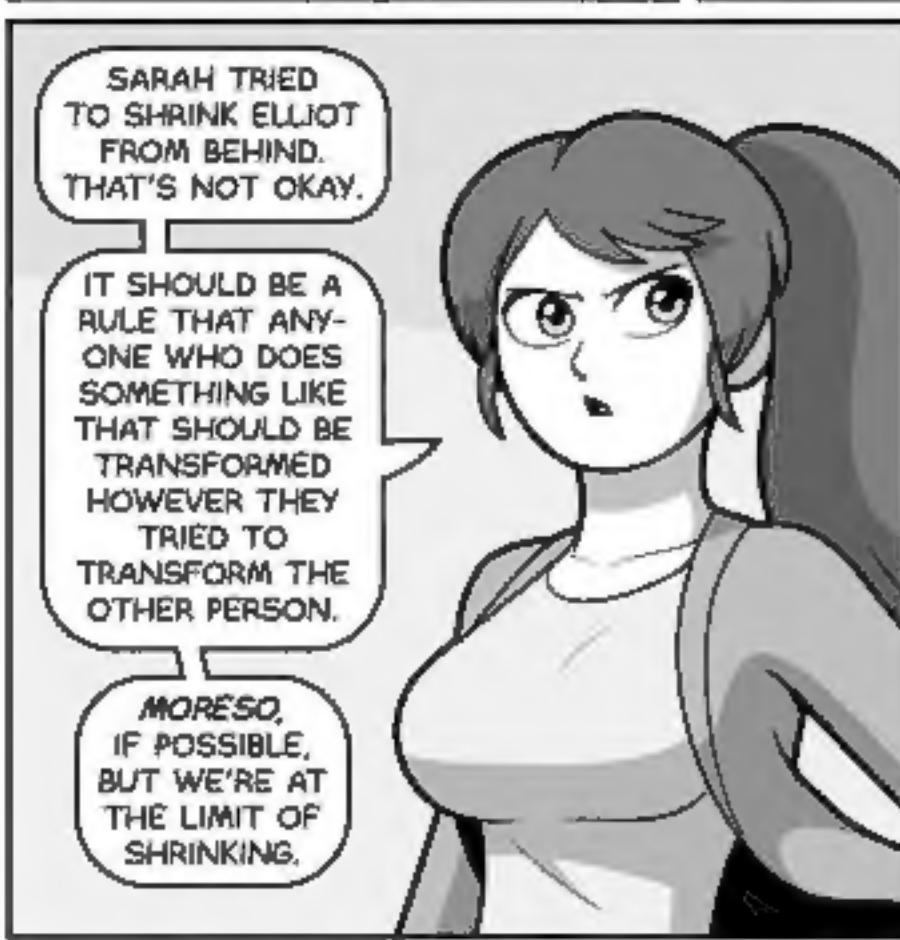
ANYWAY. I CAN RE-CHARGE IT.

OH, NEAT. SO WHAT DO YOU USE TO

OH, YOU'RE LITERALLY THE POWER SUPPLY

COOL

COOL COOL COOL



WHAT OTHER TRANSFORMATION DO YOU WANT, SARAH?

ELLIOT, IT'S A PUNISHMENT IT'S YOUR CHOICE

I GUESS THAT IS ASSERTIVE, IN ITS OWN WAY

OKAY FEMALE VARIANT NUMBER FIVE? THAT'S A, UH, A GOOD PUNISHMENT?

MY CHOICE IS THIS IS SILLY AND I CHOOSE WHATEVER YOU WANT

I SHOULD OBJECT BUT NOPE.

OH, UH... I DIDN'T INCLUDE ANY SPELLS IN THE WAND THAT, UM... "MODIFY CURVES"?

WHAT

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANYONE UNCOMFORTABLE! I DIDN'T INCLUDE ANY REALLY THOROUGH OR "SEXY" TRANSFORMATIONS.

I LIMITED SPELLS TO STUFF LIKE HEIGHT, HAIR STYLES, HAIR AND EYE COLOR. OVERALL SIZE STUFF LIKE THAT

I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE LESS INTIMIDATING, AND MORE COMFORTABLE FOR EVERYONE

I KNOW I'M CRASHING, BUT I AM INTRIGUED BY THE MENTION OF "SEXY TRANSFORMATIONS". AND HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO OTHERS USING THEM.

ON PEOPLE OTHER THAN MYSELF OF COURSE

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY TO USE THEM MYSELF, BUT DITTO!

IF IT'S CONVENIENT TO ADD THEM TO THE WAND AND STUFF...

I IMAGINE YOU WERE CONSIDERING MY FEELINGS WHEN DECIDING THAT TEDD. AND I THANK YOU.

I DO NOT MIND SUCH TRANSFORMATIONS SO LONG AS THEY ARE THE PERSON'S CHOICE

OKAY UH... I  
GUESS I'LL ADD  
SOME THINGS?

YES!

EASY  
NOW

LISTEN, I'M REALLY  
EAGER TO GET OVER  
TO THE SOFA. CAN I  
JUST, I DUNNO,  
MAKE YOU SHORTER,  
THEN SHRINK YOU?

OH! UH,  
SURE THAT  
WORKS.

EXTRA  
CURVES  
LATER.

UNDO THE CURRENT  
SIZE SPELL WITH  
"RESCINDO" FIRST

IF YOU DON'T,  
STACK PRIORITY  
COULD MAKE THE  
SECOND SIZE SPELL  
CANCEL OUT THE  
HEIGHT SPELL WITH  
THE FIRST SPELL.

OH... KAY ?

Rescindo'd!

200% Size  
↓  
100% Size

Alt tudo Mutat o'd!

5' 3"  
↓  
4' 10"

Ampio Decresco d

100% Size  
↓  
12 5% Size

OH WOW  
THIS IS  
SMALL!

(1.6 m  
↓  
1.47 m)

SO. BASED  
ON WHAT YOU  
SAID BEFORE,  
IF I WANT TO  
GROW BACK TO  
NORMAL SIZE  
AFTER BEING  
SHRUNK, I CAN  
JUST UNDO  
THIS FORM?

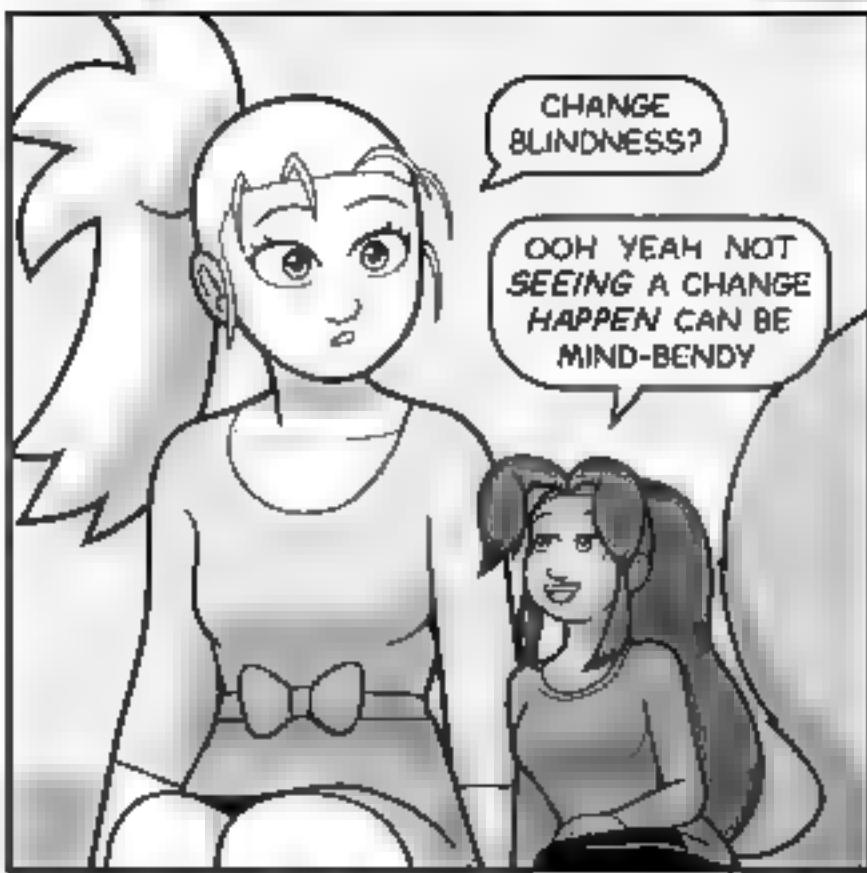
I DON'T THINK SO? I THINK  
MY SIZE SPELL WOULD STACK  
TO THE SIDE OF YOUR SPELL.  
NOT ON TOP. YOU CAN FIND  
OUT IF YOU'RE FEELING  
ADVENTUROUS LATER.

OH.. KAY...?  
FOR NOW, UM...  
SHRINKIES?

UH -ERHEM-  
YES. SURE







DIANE! YOU RASCAL!

I'VE GOTTA PUNISH YOU NOW!

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME, COPPER!

SHRINKING THICKNESS!

I AM SO MUCH GAYER THAN I THOUGHT

ALSO MAYBE INTO SOME STUFF THAT CAN NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED WEIRD.

IT IS NOW NORMAL.



HERE YA GO!

THANKS!  
BE SURE TO  
"LOOK!"

NOPE YOU CAN'T MAKE  
ME I AM A PALADIN

I COULD  
BE THAT  
CONFIDENT  
ABOUT MY  
BODY

IF I  
WANTED  
TO BE

READY!

AMPLIO DECRESCO!

GROW

OH GOOD. SHE  
SHRUNK HERSELF  
BACK DOWN. I  
CAN JUST AVERT  
MY EYES UPWARD  
NOW AND—

EEP!

I DID IT!  
I COULD  
DO IT!

I CAN USE  
WANDS!

I FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING A WHOLE BUNCH OF THINGS, BUT THAT ASKING ABOUT THEM WOULD RESULT IN A LOT OF NERD TALK, AND BE ANTI-THETICAL TO PARTYING.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW... DIANE?

IS THAT GRACE'S MAGIC IS DIFFERENT, AND IT KEPT HER FROM USING WANDS.



I THINK IT WAS ACTUALLY HAVING A VERY LOW AMOUNT OF COMMON MAGIC ENERGY, AND GRACE'S OWN ABILITIES INTERFERING WITH BUILDING THAT UP

UGH.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS ENOUGH NOW!



YAY! I CAN USE WANDS! AND NOW TO TEST...

RESCINDO!



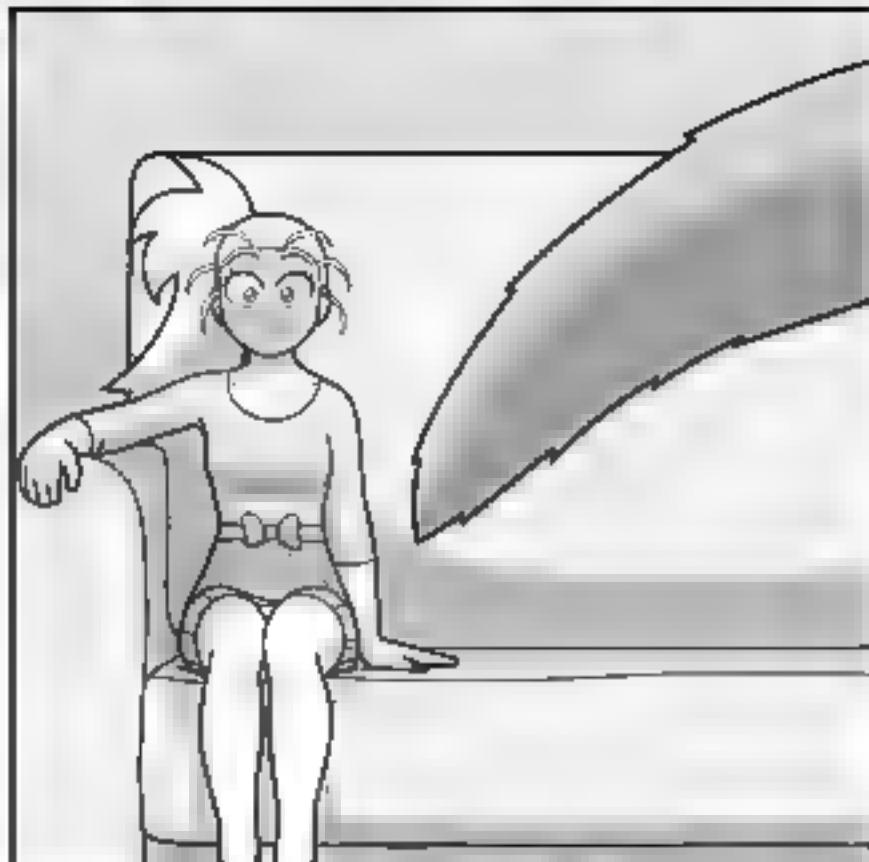
STILL AT DOUBLE MY NORMAL VOLUME.

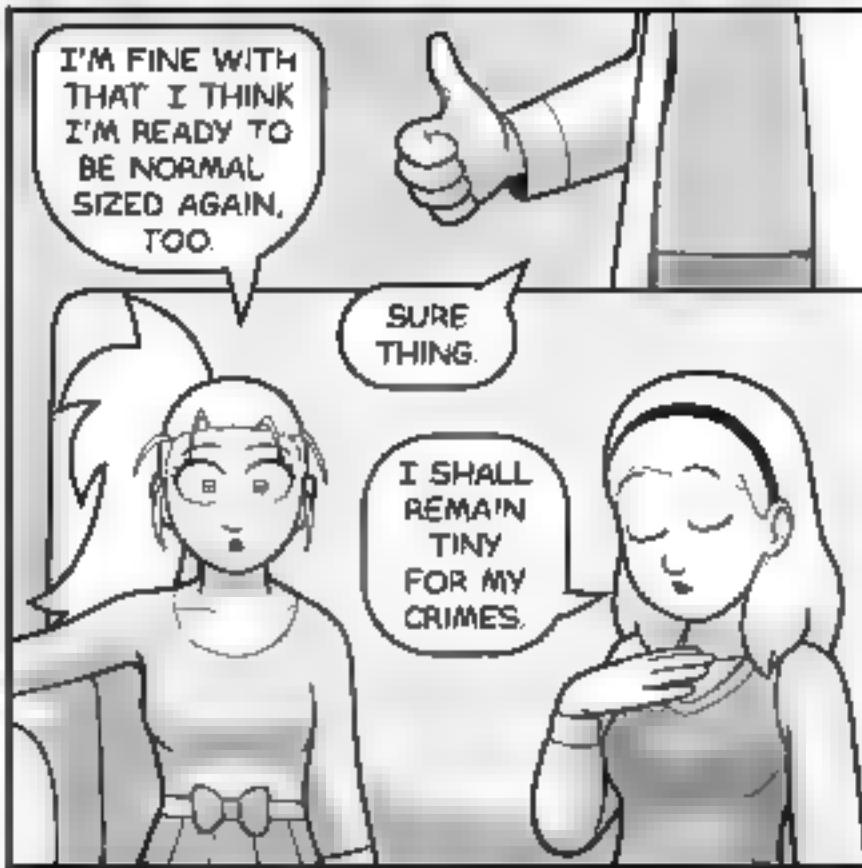
I GUESS I CAN USE WANDS, BUT I STILL "ABSORB" TRANSFORMATION ENCHANTMENTS, SO I'M NOT ACTUALLY "ENCHANTED"

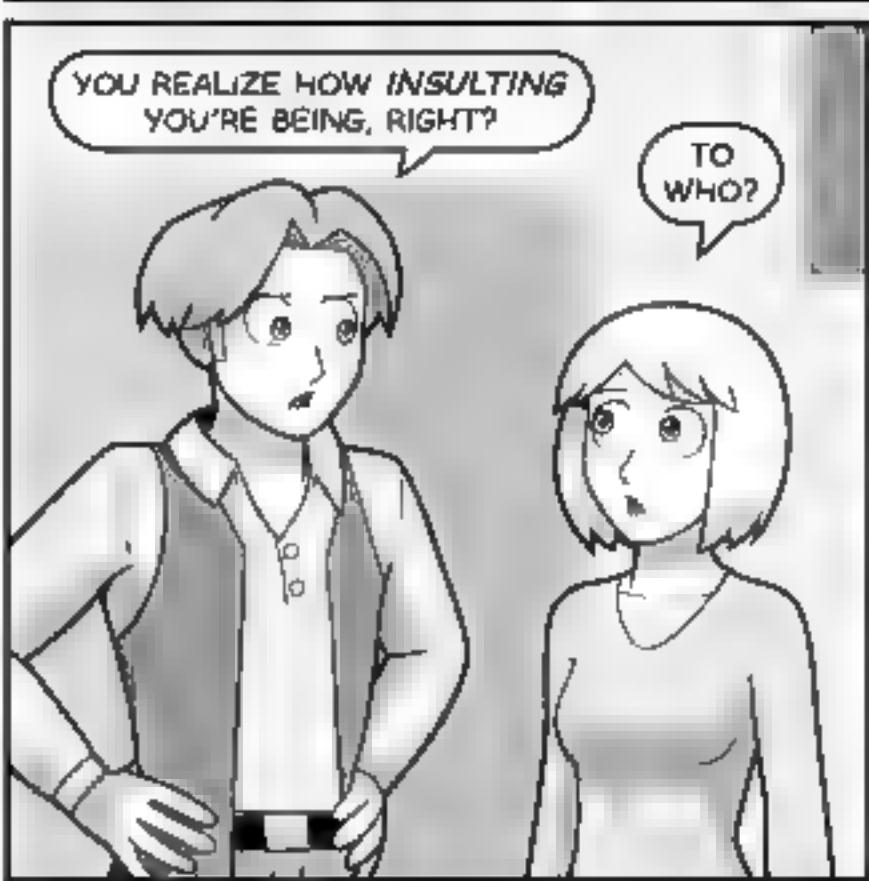
THOUGH MAYBE THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE THE BASIS FOR AMPLIO DECRESCO IS URYUOM-TECH SHRINKING AND GROWING?

DON'T ASK DON'T ASK  
DON'T ASK DON'T ASK









**(Silence the envy of outer space,  
spitting in the face of the cosmos)**





OKAY THEN.  
WHAT IS A  
NERD?

## A MISERABLE PILE OF SECRETS!

BUT ENOUGH TALK!  
HAVE AT YOU!

EH?

SORRY, COULDN'T  
RESIST THERE'S A GAME  
CALLED SYMPHONY OF THE  
NIGHT WHERE DRACULA  
SAYS "WHAT IS A MAN?"  
FOLLOWED BY THAT STUFF

OKAY WELL SEE YOU  
DIDN'T SCOFF AT ME FOR  
NOT KNOWING THAT  
VERY NOT NERD-LIKE

NO, THAT..  
ERRANGH-

THAT WAS  
VERY NERD-  
LIKE!

LOOK, NERDS... ENJOY UNUSUAL THINGS  
THAT ARE FULL OF LITTLE INTERESTING  
AND FUN DETAILS, LIKE VIDEO GAMES.

"MORE MAIN-  
STREAM" VIDEO  
GAMES ARE  
HUGELY POPULAR.

SWITCH!  
SWITCH!

MORE "COOL" AND "MAIN-  
STREAM" PEOPLE MAKE FUN  
OF US FOR OUR INTERESTS.

OKAY . LET  
ME GET MORE  
SPECIFIC ..

YES, VIDEO GAMES ARE HUGELY POPULAR.  
BUT THERE ARE NERDY GENRES OF VIDEO  
GAMES, LIKE... MEDIEVAL FANTASY!

WHO HASN'T SEEN  
LORD OF THE RINGS?

OKAY,  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
RPGS.

EVEN  
I'VE  
PLAYED  
MASS  
EFFECT

OF COURSE I  
WANTED MORE  
ROMANCE AND LESS  
COMBAT, BUT I O.D.

WE ARE SO DISCUSSING  
THAT AT LENGTH LATER.

YOU HAVE A POINT  
NERDY STUFF IS  
PRETTY MAINSTREAM  
THESE DAYS... BUT  
IT'S STILL NERDY

I DON'T  
GET IT

I THINK IT'S  
MORE HOW YOU  
LIKE SOMETHING  
THAN WHAT  
YOU LIKE.

FOR EXAMPLE,  
YOU MIGHT HAVE  
PLAYED MASS  
EFFECT BUT A  
NERD WOULD  
HYPERFOCUS ON  
IT READING UP  
ON ALL THE LORE  
AND CAPABLE OF  
TALKING ABOUT  
IT ALMOST  
ENDLESSLY

THAT SOUNDS  
LIKE ADHD.

DIANE. SHE SAID  
"HYPERFOCUS"?  
THAT IMPLIES SUPER  
CONCENTRATING  
ON THINGS?

UM, YEAH? THAT'S  
HOW ADHD WORKS?

OH, HUH.  
THAT, UH THAT...  
THAT'S INTERESTING

LIKE, IT'S DIFFICULT  
TO CONCENTRATE ON  
DEMAND, BUT WHEN  
THEY DO, IT CAN BE  
A HIGHLY ELEVATED  
FOCUS THAT'S HARD  
TO SNAP OUT OF?

AND NOT AT  
ALL WAY TOO  
FAMILIAR.

REALLY I THINK  
JUSTIN HIT THE  
NAIL ON THE HEAD  
WITH HIS SYMPHONY

WHAT,  
NERDS ARE  
MISERABLE  
PILE OF  
SECRETS?

NO, RESPONDING  
WITH A NERDY  
REFERENCE IT  
JUST SUMS IT ALL  
UP, YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE SUGGESTING THE  
DEFINITION OF "NERD" IS  
SOMEONE WHO MAKES  
"NERDY" REFERENCES.

YEP! FLAWLESS.

HEH, REMINDS ME OF HOW  
YOU FEEL ABOUT LABELS IN  
GENERAL, EH, ASHLEY?

Had no intention  
of speaking up.

Has immediately  
realized their error

UH...

GIVE THEM A SECOND. I  
THINK THEY'RE REBOOTING.

I... THINK... THERE  
IS A DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN A LABEL  
YOU CHOOSE FOR  
YOURSELF

AND A LABEL  
YOU PUT ON  
OTHER PEOPLE...



A LOT OF PEOPLE  
HAVE TRIED TO TELL  
ME WHO AND WHAT I  
AM WITH LABELS SO  
I DON'T LIKE USING  
THEM FOR MYSELF

I'D RATHER  
DESCRIBE MYSELF  
USING MORE  
WORDS.



JUSTIN... FINDS A  
FEELING OF BELONGING  
AND COMMUNITY WITH  
THE WORD "NERD" A  
LOT OF PEOPLE DO.

AS POPULAR AS "NERD"  
THINGS HAVE BECOME,  
THERE CAN STILL BE A  
STIGMA ABOUT STUFF  
RELATED TO THEM.



LIKE SPENDING OUR FRIDAY  
EVENINGS PLAYING COLLECTABLE  
CARD GAMES IN A COMIC SHOP

WHICH IS  
ACTUALLY  
COOL.



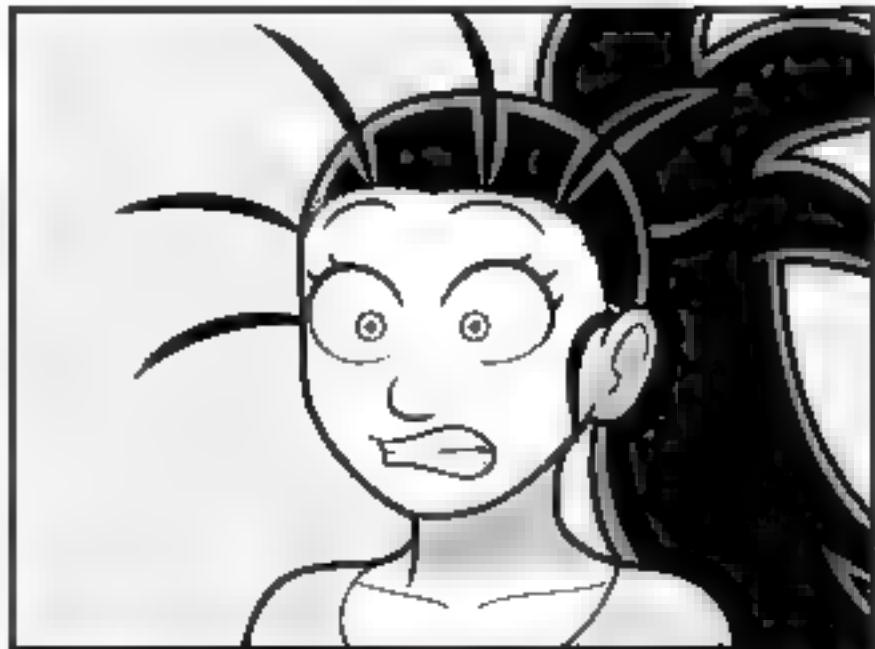
RIGHT, AND, DIANE, I'M  
GUESSING YOU'VE HAD BAD  
EXPERIENCES WITH PEOPLE WHO  
ARE ELITIST, SELF-CENTERED  
GATE KEEPERS, BUT...

YOU'RE LABELING OTHER PEOPLE  
WITH "NERD", AND USING A WORD  
MANY PEOPLE IDENTIFY AS IN A  
DEROGATORY WAY WHICH IS

SORTA  
REALLY  
NOT OKAY



# ARRRGH!



ONE OF THESE DAYS,  
I AM GOING TO RUN OUT  
OF THINGS I HAVE TO  
APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR!

I STILL DON'T GET  
WHAT THE HECK A NERD  
IS SUPPOSED TO BE...

BUT I'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN  
USING IT WRONG, SO I'M  
SORRY I WASN'T TRYING  
TO INSULT ANY OF YOU.

APOLOGY  
ACCEPTED!

YOU'LL... GET  
YOUR PARAGON  
STAT UP YET!

GRR.



AND I'M  
READY TO  
BE SHRUNK  
OUT OF  
SIGHT



IN MY DEFENSE  
I'VE KNOWN SOOOO  
MANY GUYS WHO FIT  
MY DESCRIPTION.

YOU THINK I  
HAVEN'T? I  
WORK IN A  
COMIC SHOP

YEAH, WELL, I'M A  
GIRL GUYS THINK I NEED  
EVERYTHING EXPLAINED  
TO ME I'VE HAD, LIKE,  
THREE GUYS EXPLAIN  
MASS EFFECT TO ME

I'M A TRAPPED  
AUDIENCE THEY KNOW  
I'M STUCK BEHIND  
THE COUNTER.

IT'D BE WORSE  
IF YOU WERE A  
GIRL NANASE,  
BACK ME UP

MEN DON'T REALLY TRY  
TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO  
ME THEY MOSTLY JUST  
STUTTER AND TURN RED.

I'M NOT DISPUTING THAT  
I'M JUST SAYING I'VE DEALT  
WITH THEM A LOT, TOO

WELL.  
WHAT DO  
YOU CALL  
THEM?

I DUNNO KNOW-  
IT-ALL BLABBER-  
MOUTHS?

EH, I MEAN, IT  
WORKS, BUT IT  
LACKS KICK, YOU  
KNOW?

MAY I SUGGEST  
"JACKASSES"?

I SHOULD "SPEAK UP WHEN I HAVE GOOD POINTS LIKE THAT"?

I KICKED A SOCCER BALL AT, AND THEN TALKED DOWN, AN AGGRESSIVE MAGIC GRIFFIN FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

I DIDN'T SPEAK UP HERE BECAUSE YOU JUST HAD A WEIRD MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT NERD MEANS, AND YES, I AM A BIT SHY, BUT I SPEAK UP WHEN IT MATTERS!

YOU CONDESCENDING JERK-WEASEL

I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND

AND I WOULD ACTUALLY TELL YOU ALL THIS IF IT WASN'T OBVIOUS YOU'RE AT LEAST TRYING TO BE NICE, AND IF THIS WASN'T A PARTY WHERE I'M TRYING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN!

AW! I LOVE SEEING FRIENDSHIP BLOOM!

I WOULD ALSO LOVE TO SEE PIZZA.

RIGHT AH, WHO'S HUNGRY?

JACKASSES...  
HAS A CERTAIN  
RING TO IT

THERE AREN'T PEOPLE  
WHO IDENTIFY AS JACK-  
ASSES, ARE THERE?

IF THERE ARE, WE HONOR  
THEM BY CALLING THEM OUT  
ON THEIR JACKASSERY

HEY! MOUSEY GIRL!

THAT WAS A  
GOOD POINT ABOUT  
PEOPLE CHOOSING  
THEIR LABELS AND  
PEOPLE BEING GIVEN  
LABELS.

YOU SHOULD  
SPEAK UP WHEN  
YOU HAVE GOOD  
POINTS LIKE  
THAT

ALL IT TAKES FOR IGNORANCE  
TO TRIUMPH IS FOR PEOPLE  
TO NOT SPEAK UP OR WHAT  
EVER THAT QUOTE WAS.



Next story comic Monday, more details on schedule below

HEY NANASE  
WHILE THEY'RE DOING  
THAT, DO YOU WANT  
TO COME UP WITH A  
TRANSFORMATION  
PARTY GAME?

COME ON THIS PARTY NEEDS SOMETHING FUN  
AND ZAPPY! I THINK WE WENT TOO FAR WITH  
TEDD'S SENSITIVITY TRAINING THERE SHOULD  
BE CURVES, FLUFFY TAILS, AND BADLY FITTING  
CLOTHES EVERYWHERE RIGHT NOW.

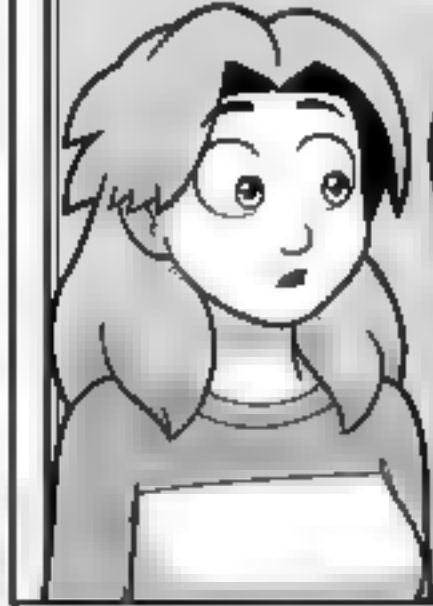
A WHAT?

OH, YOU SHOULD TALK  
TO ASHLEY ABOUT THAT

...IS SOMETHING WRONG? IS  
IT ABOUT JUSTIN? I KNOW  
CHANGING YOURSELF TO MAKE  
OTHERS BLUSH MIGHT NOT  
SEEM HEALTHY BUT I THINK

I DIDN'T  
LIKE ASHLEY  
BECAUSE SHE  
WASN'T  
IMRESSED  
BY ME

I'VE REALIZED MY ENTIRE BASIS  
FOR NOT TRUSTING ASHLEY WAS  
THAT SHE WASN'T SOMEHOW IN  
AWE OF ME AND COULD REST  
ASKING QUESTIONS.



MY EGO'S NO  
BETTER THAN  
DIANE'S

NO BETTER  
THAN DIANE'S? ARE  
YOU KIDDING?

DIANE'S GOT A  
GREAT EGO!

YOU GETTING IDEAS  
ABOUT TURNING  
INTO A GUY TO TURN  
WOMEN'S HEADS?

IF WOMEN AREN'T  
ALREADY TURNING  
THEIR HEADS AS I  
PASS, THEY AREN'T  
PAYING ATTENTION.

THERE'S SO  
MUCH SHE CAN  
TEACH US.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DIANE

EXCUSE ME?

YOU'RE A PRETTY GIRL. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TRY TO GET NOTICED BY MEN. AND WHEN YOU DO TRY?

IT'S SUPER EFFECTIVE WITH A HIGH CRITICAL HIT RATE



GUYS DON'T NOTICE ME THAT WAY. ONLY TEN PERCENT OF MEN ARE INTERESTED IN OTHER MEN TO BEGIN WITH...

I STILL QUESTION THAT STATISTIC

...AND OF THE PERCENT OF THAT PERCENT WHO MIGHT FIND ME ATTRACTIVE, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW IT EVEN THESE DAYS. WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A BAD REACTION

LUKE AND I WERE WALKING ON EGG SHELLS ABOUT ASKING EACH OTHER OUT OF GENUINE FEAR OF JUST HOW BADLY IT MIGHT GO.

AND BEFORE ANYONE MISUNDERSTANDS, I'M NOT PLANNING TO FLIRT OR MESS WITH THE GUY ASSUMING IT EVEN IS A GUY WHO SHOWS UP.

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK LIKE I MIGHT BE TRYING.

I JUST WANT THE SMALL CHANCE THAT I'LL GET A QUICK "WOW, THEY'RE HOT" LOOK WHILE PAYING FOR PIZZA.



SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET ALL...

UHH...



**I'LL HELP!**

THAT IS NOT A  
HEALTHY EGO

HEALTHIER THAN  
MOST SERIOUSLY A  
LOT OF JS COULD  
BENEFIT FROM SOME  
INFLATION

NANASE YOU'RE  
A BEAUTIFUL TINY  
MAGIC WOMAN WHO  
CAN LIFT FOUR TIMES  
HER OWN BODY  
WEIGHT AND FLY

IT IS STRANGE THAT  
SOMEONE WOULDN'T BE  
IN SOME AMAZEMENT  
OF YOU UNLESS, YOU  
KNOW, THEY'RE ALSO  
AMAZING.

EGO  
INFLATION  
I MEAN,  
NOT

I SHOULD BE MORE  
HUMBLE THAN

T'S NOT EGOTISM IF  
IT'S TRUE AND IT'S NOT  
EGOTISM TO THINK IT'S  
WEIRD SOMEONE ISN'T  
IMPRORESSED BY YOU

YOU ARE VERY  
IMPRESSIVE YOU  
DON'T NEED  
FALSE MODESTY

EVEN IF YOU'RE  
RIGHT, ASHLEY BARELY  
KNEW ME WHEN I GOT  
SUSPICIOUS OF HER.

THAT IS TOO  
MUCH EGO, AND  
I'VE BEEN TOO  
HARD ON HER



THEN MAKE IT UP TO HER  
BY GOING OVER THERE AND  
BEING FRIENDLY SHE LIKES  
SIZE STUFF MAYBE BRING  
OUT THE FAIRY DOLL.

MAYBE IF I CHANGE  
THE OUTFIT.. I  
THINK THE SKIMPY  
ONE MADE HER  
UNCOMFORTABLE

SEE? YOU'RE NOT THE  
WEIRD ONE HERE



YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY WANT TO EAT A WHOLE LARGE PIZZA BY YOURSELF

OF COURSE I DON'T I SAID AN EXTRA-LARGE WITH EVERYTHING ON IT

TO BE FAIR, ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T FINISH COULD BE LEFTOVERS.

NOTHING SHALL REMAIN.

THOUGH IF YOU WANT TO FEEL LESS HUNGRY SO YOU'RE NOT ORDERING WHILE HUNGRY YOU COULD DRINK A GLASS OF WATER.

I'M PART ALIEN-SQUIRREL YOUR HU-MON TRICKS WON'T WORK FOR ME.

ARE YOU MAKING EXCUSES?

YES.

SOME WATER PROBABLY WOULD HELP GRACE ORDER MORE RATIONALLY

THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BE ON ASHLEY'S SIDE ABOUT SOMETHING!

ASHLEY'S IDEA IS GENIUS, GRACE! IT'S COMPLETELY GUARANTEED TO WORK!

NO, YOU FOOL, THAT'S TOO MUCH! YOU SOUND SARCASTIC! DIAL IT BACK! DIAL IT BACK!

REALLY? OKAY, I GUESS I SHOULD TRY IT

JUST TAKE THE WIN.

JUSTIN, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE JUST A LITTLE BIT FLIRTY?



RIGHT.

YOU NEED A FIGURE THAT DEMANDS ATTENTION ON ITS OWN, AND AN OUTFIT THAT LOOKS CASUAL, BUT DRAWS THE EYES TO ALL THE RIGHT PLACES.

NOT TO STATE THE OBVIOUS, BUT... BIG BOOBS.

YES, OF COURSE. THEY NATURALLY DRAW THE EYE AND IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FIND SHIRTS THAT FIT AND DON'T SHOW OFF CLEAVAGE

THEY WON'T SUSPECT A THING.

YOU MIGHT BE OVERESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF CRITICAL ANALYSIS THAT IS LIKELY IN THIS SITUATION.

SO... "GENDER CASUAL"?

UH... WELL YEAH...

I'M JUST CURIOUS. I THOUGHT YOU MOSTLY TRANSFORMED BECAUSE YOU HAD TO

OH, WELL, IT TURNS OUT I DON'T HAVE TO ANYMORE, BUT I STILL WANT TO SOMETIMES...

...AND THE SCARE OF MAGIC CHANGING, AND MAYBE LOSING THE ABILITY, MADE ME REALIZE THAT I'D REALLY MISS THE ABILITY IF I LOST IT

I DON'T FEEL A STRONG SENSE OF PREFERENCE, THOUGH, AND I'M TOTALLY FINE EITHER WAY MOST OF THE TIME, SO...

"GENDER CASUAL"

AGENDER... I SEE. INTERESTING

I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT MAGIC CHANGING. I'D... MISS MY FAIRIES...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

"AGENDER"? I'M PRETTY SURE THAT MEANS NOT IDENTIFYING AS A PARTICULAR GENDER?

I'M SORRY, THAT'S JUST WHAT IT MADE ME THINK OF I'M NOT TRYING TO TELL YOU WHAT TO--

NO, NO NOT I MEAN, I DO PREFER "GENDER CASUAL" FOR MYSELF BUT.

UM... YEAH. WHY?

UH...

OH CRAP. NOBODY TOLD HER ABOUT MAGIC'S NOT-CHANGE?!

OH CRAP! THE NOT-CHANGE THAT WAS TRIGGERED BY WHAT HAPPENED WHILE SHE WAS AT THE MALL?!

OH CRAP! THAT THING THAT'S PART OF WHATEVER'S UPSET HER TO THE POINT OF ISOLATING HERSELF, WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY NOBODY'S TOLD HER?!

ELLIOT IT'S OBVIOUS SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH MAGIC CHANGING AND YOU'RE NERVOUS ABOUT TELLING ME FOR SOME REASON.

OH CRAP!!!

SHORTEST, THEM LOOKING  
DOWN IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

I RECOMMEND MY  
EXACT HEIGHT

YOU DON'T TRANSFORM  
MUCH, SO YOU MIGHT  
NOT WANT TO CHANGE  
YOUR HEIGHT

TALLER! MAKE THE  
CENTER OF YOUR  
CLEAVAGE AVERAGE  
MALE EYE LEVEL!



LONGER HAIR, BUT  
NOT SO LONG YOU'RE  
COVERING YOURSELF

SOMETHING LIKE  
MY HAIR LENGTH.



I'D RECOMMEND AT  
LEAST SHOULDER LENGTH  
HAIR. SOMETHING THAT  
ACCENTUATES MOVEMENT  
WITHOUT EFFORT



FOR CLOTHES, I'D  
SAY SOMETHING LIKE  
WHAT I'M WEARING TO  
LOOK CASUAL, BUT  
WITH A LOWER CUT



I THINK A TANK TOP  
WITH AN OVERSHIRT WOULD  
WORK BEST. YOU COULD  
HAVE SOME SHOULDER  
EXPOSED WITHOUT IT  
LOOKING INTENTIONAL



SUMMER  
PAJAMAS!



ON TOP OF WHATEVER'S BEEN BOTHERING SUSAN, THIS BRINGS UP WHAT HAPPENED WITH PANDORA.

I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT ALL THE DETAILS RIGHT NOW, AND I'M NOT SURE I EVEN CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL WITHOUT GETTING TEDD INVOLVED...



WAIT! THAT'S IT!

I'LL SAVE THE DAY WITH INCOMPETENCE!

MAGIC'S NOT IN DANGER OF CHANGING ANYMORE

NOW IT'S LIKE, EVERYTHING WE COULD DO STILL WORKS AND ALWAYS WILL, BUT OTHER THINGS WORK NOW, TOO?

"OTHER THINGS"?

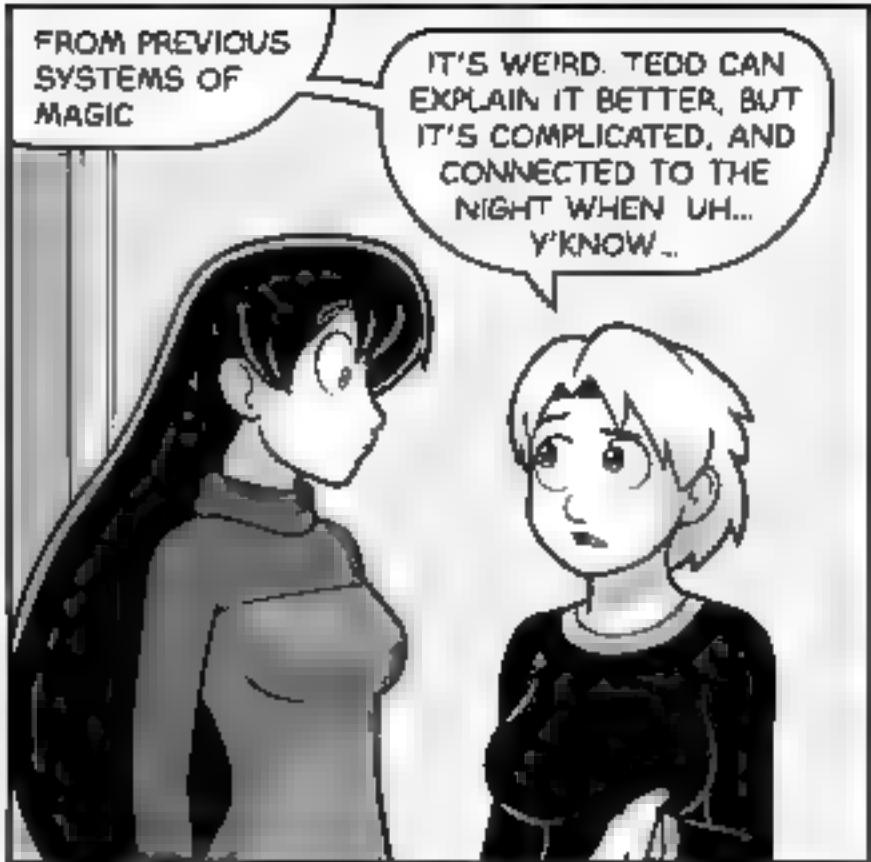


FROM PREVIOUS SYSTEMS OF MAGIC

IT'S WEIRD. TEDD CAN EXPLAIN IT BETTER, BUT IT'S COMPLICATED, AND CONNECTED TO THE NIGHT WHEN UH... Y'KNOW...

RIGHT FILING EVERYTHING BUT "DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MAGIC CHANGING" UNDER "TALK ABOUT WAY LATER"

LET'S GO HELP JUSTIN WITH HIS TERRIBLE IDEA.



WHY WOULD  
YOU NEED... OH.  
RIGHT YOU'VE  
TOLD ME  
ABOUT THIS.

YOU LIKE HAVING A FEMALE FORM YOU  
CAN REUSE THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT  
TO ELLEN BUT IT'S HARD TO KEEP EVERY-  
THING THE SAME MORPH TO MORPH, AND  
IT'S EASY TO OVERDO THINGS?

YEAH LIKE I'VE TRIED KEEPING  
MY ORIGINAL HEIGHT AFTER  
TRANSFORMING. BUT I WIND UP  
TOO TALL, NOT TALL ENOUGH,  
OR EVEN SHORTER SOMEHOW

YOU STICK TO HAIR COLOR  
AND SUCH BECAUSE IT'S EASY  
TO KEEP CONSISTENT?

PFFFFT HEIGHT IS OVERRATED. IF ANY-  
THING WE'RE TOO TALL CAN YOU  
IMAGINE US RHODA-HEIGHT?

WHAT'S WEIRD  
IS, IF I TRY TO  
NOT LOOK AT  
ALL LIKE ME OR  
CHANGE A WHOLE  
BUNCH OF THINGS,  
IT'S EASIER TO  
DO IT AGAIN?

LIKE IF I WANTED TO  
BE THAT CURVY FORM FROM  
EARLIER AGAIN? EASY

WELL, SHE'S  
ADORABLE

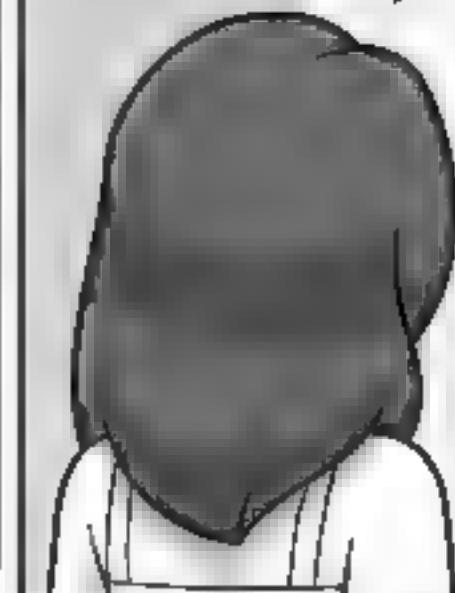
I DON'T ACTUALLY  
KNOW RHODA?

TRUE  
STORY

THAT ACTUALLY  
SOUNDS LIKE  
SOMETHING WE  
COULD TROUBLE-  
SHOOT.

BUT YEAH, THE  
"DEFAULT" OF WHAT I  
HAVE IN MIND WOULD  
BE A BASIC FEMALE  
MORPH. EASY TO STAY  
THE SAME HEIGHT

THOUGH, IF YOU JUST WANT A  
CONSISTENT REUSABLE FORM, WE  
COULD MAKE A SPELL THAT'S  
LITERALLY JUST THAT LATER



THANKS FOR THE TIPS, BUT I'VE GOTTA SETTLE ON A FORM AND OUTFIT SO TEDD CAN MAKE A SPELL FOR IT NOW

PLUS WE'VE REALLY GOTTA ORDER FOOD BEFORE NANASE AND GRACE GO FERAL

JUST REMEMBER BEACH-BALL-SIZED.

HEY!  
I'VE SEEN YOU HUNGRY, NANASE!

HANG ON I DON'T THINK I ACTUALLY NEED TO MAKE A SPECIFIC FORM SPELL. ELLIOT CAN I LOOK AT YOU USING YOUR GIRLY SPELL AGAIN?

UM, I GUESS, BUT WHY? YOU'VE "LOOKED" AT IT BEFORE

YEAH, BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AND I CAN USE YOUR SPELL AS A BASIS FOR A NEW SPELL THAT WORKS SIMILAR TO YOURS!

JUSTIN COULD JUST IMAGINE WHAT HE WANTS AND TRY A BUNCH OF FORMS!

"SIMILAR" TO MINE.. SO I'M GUESsing NO HEIGHT CHANGE OR SET FIGURE AS A DEFAULT?

BASICALLY YEAH.

OKAY, BUT HOW MUCH DO THOSE DRUMSTICKS COST?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE I WANT A WAND OF MY OWN WITH THAT SPELL.

THAT, UH, THAT'S SOMETHING WE COULD DO SOMETIME. YEAH. DESIGN A FORM TOGETHER FOR ME TO REUSE...

OH! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D, Y'KNOW, COME UP WITH THE SPECIFICS. AND.. UH.. SHOW ME, OR...

WELL, UH, I WANT TO STILL LOOK LIKE ME, WITH MAYBE SOME SPECIFICS, AND... IT'D BE A SUBTLE MORPH I'D HAVE TROUBLE REPEATING, SO.

SO IT'D PROBABLY BE BEST IF WE SPENT SOME TIME SORTING OUT THE FORM YOU WANT.. TOGETHER



YEAH, I MEAN, IF THAT'S SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO DO SOMEDAY.

YEAH, THAT'S...

THAT'S A THING WE CAN DO, SURE.



IS IT WEIRD THAT I WANT TO SEE THEM HUG?

HUG, YOU FOOLS!

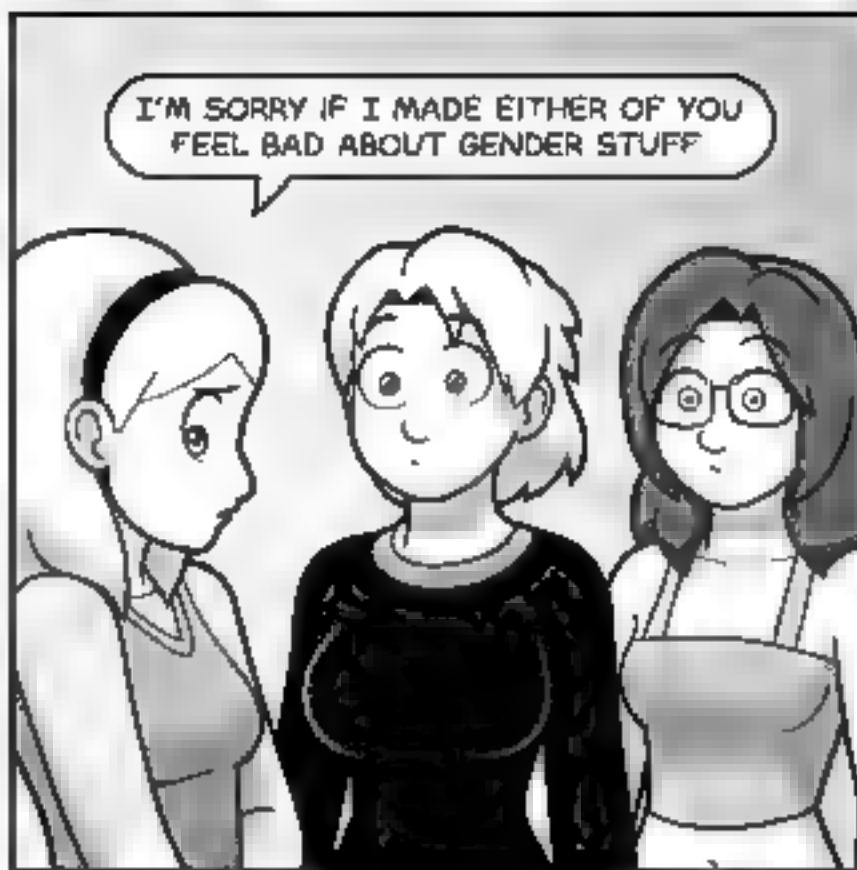




As the others sorted out what to order

DOES THIS PLACE HAVE THAT CRUST WITH WHAT AMOUNTS TO A SECOND PIZZA STUFFED INSIDE?

Elliot and Tedd found isolation in the other side of the basement for "Looking" at Elliot's spell, and adding a new spell based on it to the drumstick



SO WHAT IF HER BOYFRIEND  
ISN'T "MALE" ALL THE TIME?

WAS SHE  
TALKING ABOUT  
SAM?

OH! GRACE!

HI SORRY DIDN'T MEAN TO  
EAVESDROP I CAME OVER TO  
GET YOUR ORDER SLASH SEE IF  
EVERYTHING WAS OKAY AND...

HEY, HEY! IT'S OKAY! I DIDN'T  
WANT TO SAY ALL THAT IN FRONT  
OF EVERYONE, BUT YOU'RE FINE!

COME ON,  
I'LL DECIDE ON  
MY ORDER.

SARAH SAID HER DATE  
WITH SAM WENT  
REALLY WELL, AND  
THAT IT WAS A DATE...

DID SAM DECIDE  
TO TELL HER HE  
WAS TRANS  
AFTER ALL?

SAM'S CONFLICTED  
DATING BEHAVIOR,  
GRACE'S NERVOUSNESS,  
WARNING ME TO ASK  
BEFORE TEARING SAM'S  
SHIRT OFF...

...RUNNING INTO  
"SOMEONE" WHO WAS  
"SUBTLY TRANSFORMED"  
AT THE COMIC SHOP...

HOW EMOTIONAL  
GRACE GOT WHEN I  
SAID IT WAS OKAY THAT  
SHE WAS KEEPING A  
SECRET FROM ME...

NOTE TO SELF: IF IT TURNS OUT I  
REALLY AM RIGHT ABOUT SAM BEING  
TRANS AND TRANSFORMING, NEVER  
TELL GRACE HOW I FIGURED IT OUT

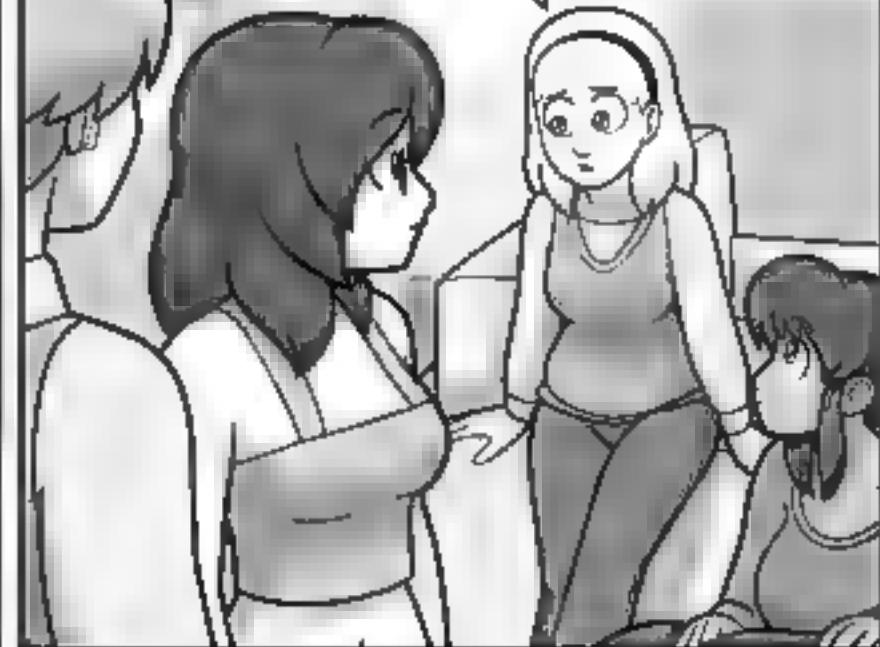
O\_O



With food ordered, the clock was ticking to have a cool montage of Justin trying out female forms w th the new spell.

UM... IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO PUT IT THAN "FEMALE FORMS"?

I MEAN, JUSTIN'S GENDER IDENTITY ISN'T GETTING MORPHED, IS IT?



OKAY SO HOW DO I DO THIS?

WHILE THE TIP IS TOUCHING YOU SAY "FEMINEUS" WITH THE INTENT OF, UM, ASSUMING A FEMININE FORM. LINGUISTIC SCIENCE

WHILE IMAGINING HOW I WANT TO LOOK. RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT IT'S BASED ON MY SPELL, SO IT MIGHT BE FINICKY!

GOT IT

ALSO, IF YOU IMAGINE SOMEONE 'CAUSE YOU WANT TO BE THEIR HEIGHT OR SOMETHING YOU MIGHT END UP LOOKING LIKE THEM!

OH, SO... DON'T IMAGINE NANASE TO TRY AND COPY HER FIGURE?

AW...

WAIT, SO... YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE NANASE?

NOT PERFECTLY, BUT

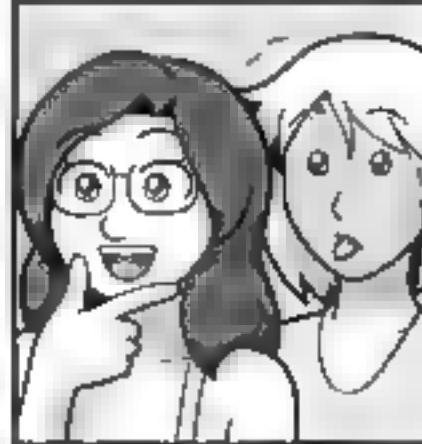
LATER! TICKING CLOCK!

THE BEST WAY TO START IS NOT FOCUS ON ANYTHING, AND USE THAT DEFAULT RESULT AS A BASELINE TO BUILD ON

THEN YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE CHANGES TO THAT FORM, AND NOT WIND UP LOOKING LIKE A FUSION WITH SOMEONE ELSE

DARN IT, WE COULD'VE HAD A COOL JUSTIN-NANASE HYBRID FORM.

OOH...  
IF IT HELPS, I CAN MAKE MY HAIR ORANGE.



I LOVE THIS FORM! I  
LOOK LIKE A SOPHISTICATED  
YOUNG BUSINESSWOMAN  
ON HER DAY OFF

OR SOME-  
ONE'S HOT  
MOM!

WHAT?



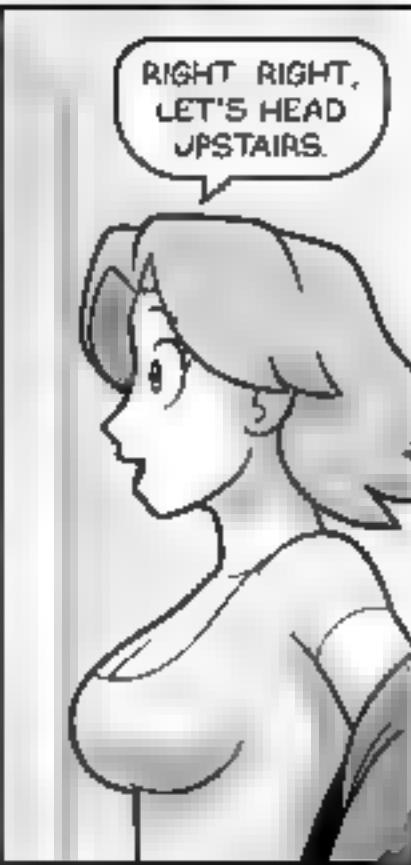
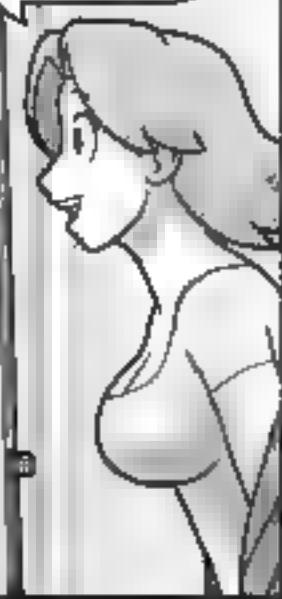
TEDD I INSIST  
WE SCAN THIS  
FORM! IF NOTHING  
ELSE TO PRESERVE  
THE HAIRSTYLE  
FOR HISTORY

AFTER THE PIZZA  
ARRIVES, IT COULD BE  
HERE ANY MINUTE!

"SCAN"?

TICKING  
CLOCK!

RIGHT RIGHT,  
LET'S HEAD  
UPSTAIRS.



WHOA



JUSTIN?

HELLOOOO  
JUSTIN.



OKAY IF YOU'RE SURE OKAY  
I'M SAVING THE FOOD

UH.  
YOU WERE  
SURE, RIGHT  
JUSTIN?

ALL I WANTED WAS AN  
APPRECIATIVE LOOK FROM A  
GUY, AND I GOT ONE.

UH, HAPPY TO  
LOOK! YEAH

I JUST THOUGHT HE'D LIKE AT  
LEAST ONE GUY AT THE PARTY  
WHILE I KNEW THAT I DIDN'T  
THINK I'D TAKE THE PIZZA  
GUY'S PLACE

YOU WERE  
SUPER  
EFFECTIVE!

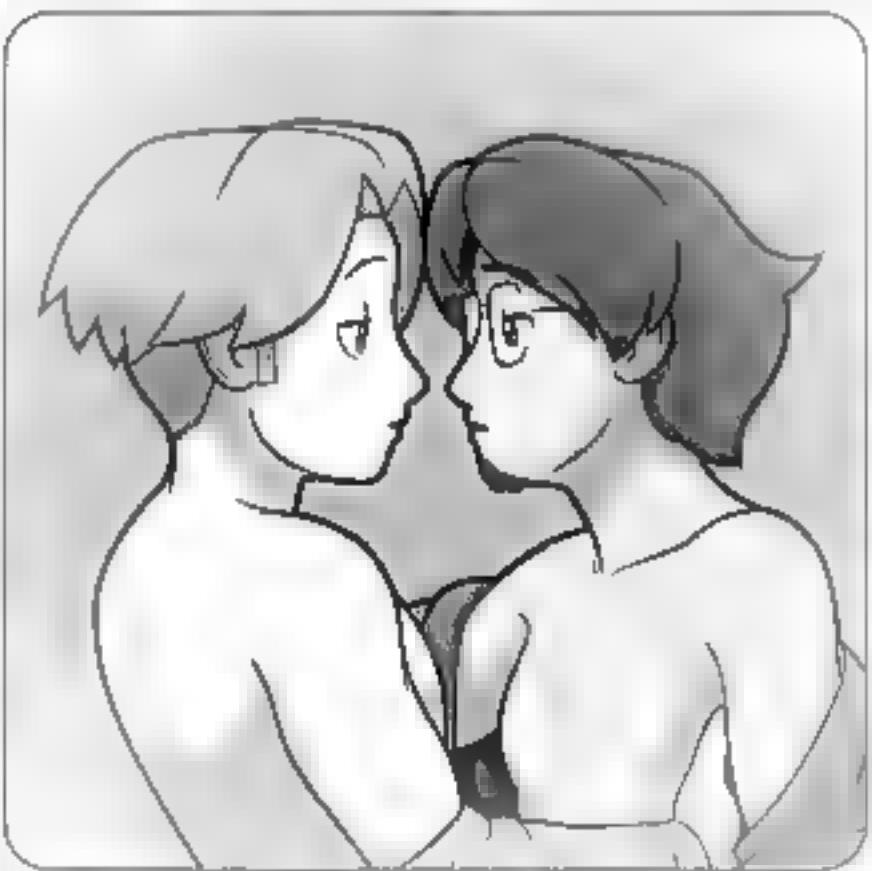
DING-DONG

WHOOSH

♪ G-G-G-GRACE'S TAIL ♪

♪ RESCUE PIZZAS ♪

HOLY CARP FORKS!



IS SOMETHING WRONG?

UHH...

YOU OPENED THE DOOR SO FAST THAT IT STARTLED ME.

OH! SORRY  
ABOUT THAT

IT'S FINE.  
UM...

YOU'RE TEDD  
VERRES?

I'M TEDD'S GIRLFRIEND,  
GRACE! DO I NEED TO  
GO GET TEDD OR...

MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME  
WHO I HAND FOOD TO, SO LONG AS  
IT'S THE RIGHT ADDRESS. IT'S JUST  
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A TEDD.

AND I THINK I'VE SEEN YOU  
AT SCHOOL? M.S.H.S.? YOU LOOK  
DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW

I DOP?

ACK! I MISSED A SPOT!

I'VE NO  
IDEA WHAT  
YOU MEAN

FOOD.  
PLEASE



Soon .



Many years ago.

# FWOOM

OH FOR...

NOT AGAIN!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO  
BE A TIME AND MAGIC  
SAVER NOT...

OH, I DON'T KNOW!  
A JUNK CAR FOR A  
HOBBYIST MECHANIC?

OH, FORGET IT! I CAN  
DO IT MYSELF! I'LL JUST  
INCREASE MY CALORIE  
INTAKE OR SOMETHING.

I REPLACE YOU  
WITH CHEESECAKE!

AND BETTER THAT  
THAN A LECTURE  
FROM ADRIAN!

"FOUR  
ENCHANTMENTS?  
WHAT HAVE I ALWAYS  
SAID ABOUT BALANCE  
AND MAGIC NYEH NEH  
NYEH NYEH NYEH!"

"ALSO I'M STILL  
VERY BRITISH AFTER  
SEVERAL DECADES IN  
THE U.S. WOULD YOU  
LIKE SOME TEA I CALL  
COOKIES BISCUITS!"

AS FOR YOU, DOOR MIRROR, YOU'RE  
GOING TO THE BASEMENT WHERE I WON'T  
HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOU TO ANYONE!

OR WORRY ABOUT  
YOU ABSORBING TOO  
MUCH MAGIC OR  
WHATEVER, I GUESS.

DON'T WORRY I'M SURE I'LL FIND TIME  
TO FIX YOU BEFORE I FORGET THERE'S  
A MAGIC MIRROR IN THE BASEMENT

PROBABLY



SO, UH, TEDD. IS IT...  
OKAY IF I TRANSFORM JUST  
TO EXPERIMENT WITH HAIR-  
STYLES AND FASHION?

IS IT  
"OKAY"?

YEAH LIKE... YOU'VE MADE A SPELL THAT  
MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO TRY OUT A BUNCH  
OF DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLES AND FASHIONS  
SUPER EASILY. AND THAT'S SOMETHING I  
LIKE WITH FEMININE FORMS.



...BUT I DON'T IDENTIFY  
AS A GIRL. I'D JUST BE  
PLAYING AROUND WITH  
FASHION.

IS THAT, I  
DON'T KNOW  
NOT COOL,  
SOMEHOW?

JUSTIN. IN MY IDEAL WORLD EVERYONE WOULD  
BE SO CHILL ABOUT GENDER THAT A COUPLE OF  
FRAT DUDES TRANSFORMING FOR NO OTHER  
REASON THAN THEY WERE BORED ON A  
SATURDAY WOULD BE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE.



ALSO THAT IF ONE OR BOTH OF  
THEM DECIDED THEY PREFERRED FEMININE  
FORMS, AND THEN GOT MARRIED, EVERY  
ONE WOULD ACCEPT THAT, TOO.



POINT IS, YOU EXPLORING  
YOURSELF ARTISTICALLY ISN'T  
GOING TO OFFEND ME

COOL COOL UM. WOULD IT ALSO  
BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE A MASCULINE  
VERSION OF THE SPELL?



HECK YES. BETWEEN YOU AND ME,  
I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO EXPERIMENT  
WITH SOME LESS ANDROGYNOUS FORMS  
FOR WHEN I'M FEELING DUDE-ish.

Soon



IF JAY WANTS TO RUN AROUND TELLING EVERYONE WHO WILL LISTEN THAT I HAD ENORMOUS BOOBS, THAT'S HER BUSINESS.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SIT AROUND WITH NOT-ENORMOUS BOOBS AND SHRUG IF ANYONE ACTUALLY ASKS ME ABOUT IT

AND REALLY WHO'S GOING TO DO THAT?

THAT'S...

A REALLY GOOD POINT, ACTUALLY

THE BEST COVER STORY FOR THIS PROBABLY IS NONE AT ALL.

BESIDES, I CHANGE STUFF ABOUT MYSELF ON A WHIM ALL THE TIME. AND NOBODY SAYS ANYTHING OF COURSE, I MAKE THE CHANGES WHILE NO ONE'S LOOKING...

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TAKE THAT RISK.

ALSO HER NAME'S JILL, NOT JAY

SHE SAID HER NAME WAS JAY

SHE DID? TEACHERS CALL HER JILL, I GUESS SHE'S LIKE SUSAN?

NANASE...

WAIT, HOW IS SHE LIKE SUSAN?

YEAH, BECAUSE WITH CHANGE BLINDNESS, MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN NOTICE IF I'VE CHANGED SOMETHING!

LKE THESE? PFFFFT THESE ARE NOTHING.

After what felt like months, food was finally acquired, and the comb red threat of hungry Nanase and Grace was ended

As Susan pointed out while awkwardly quoting a line from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, however, if you combine talking and eating, you're not going to do either one very well.



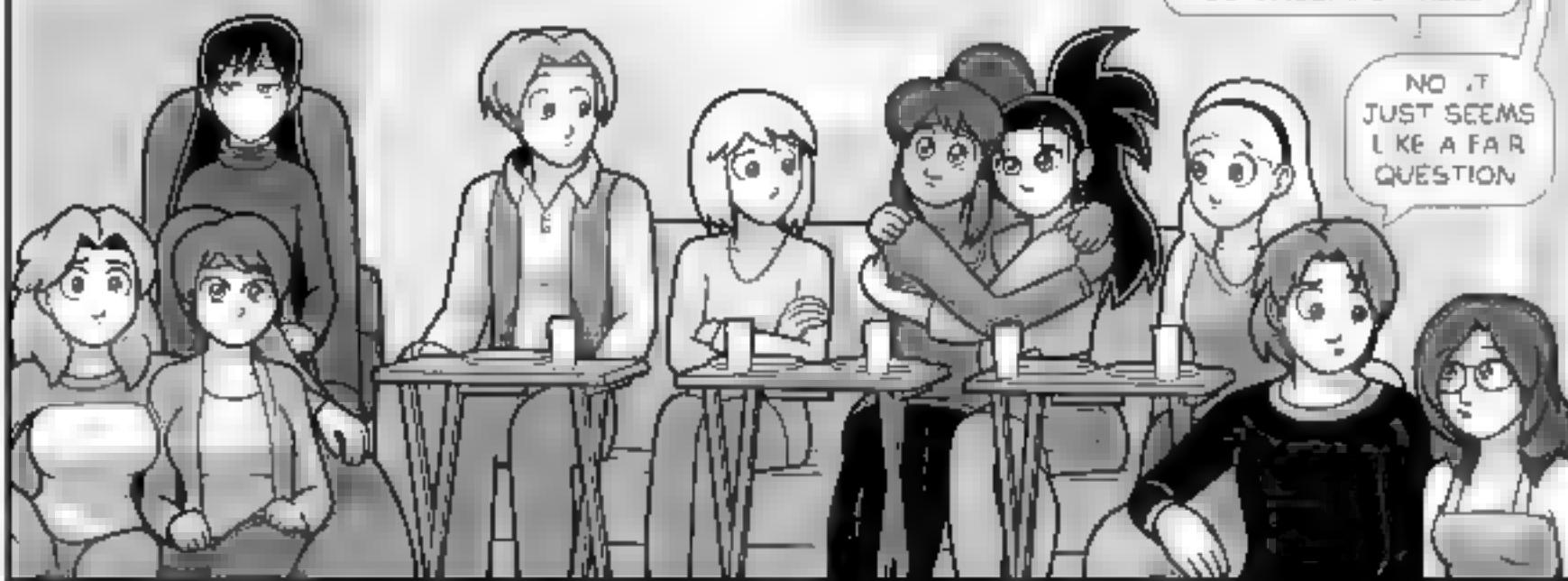
Specifically,  
*The Sword In  
The Stone*

Ashley and Grace remained adamant in their feelings regarding squirrel romance, at least in the context of the film

HOW DID WE END UP ON A BEAN BAG TOGETHER?

YOU UNCOMFORTABLE?

NO, IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A FAR QUESTION



Once the movie had concluded

I ASSUME MY WIZARD TRAINING WON'T INVOLVE TURNING INTO ANIMALS AND UPSETTING ECOSYSTEMS AND HEARTS?



BUT HE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR TEACHER IS A TALKING WAND NAMED KEVIN.



WHEN A.U NOT-ELLIOT MAGUS DID A THING, IT DESTROYED THE DEWITCHERY DIAMOND. INSIDE THE DIAMOND WAS A DRAGON SCALE THAT LEAKED MAGIC POWER OR WHATEVER.

IT CHANGED MY HAIR AND EYE COLORS, IS PROBABLY WHY ASHLEY'S A WIZARD...



AND POWERED UP A BUNCH OF THINGS THAT D.DN'T USED TO WORK, LIKE KEVIN, BUT DO NOW AFTER MAGIC CHANGED.

THAT'S A LOT TO UNPACK, BUT... MAGIC "CHANGED"?



IT DID. BUT IT DIDN'T

OF COURSE

IT WAS IN DANGER OF COMPLETELY CHANGING TO KEEP TOO MANY PEOPLE FROM FIGURING OUT HOW TO USE IT. HOW PEOPLE GET AND USE MAGIC COULD'VE CHANGED, ALONG WITH EVERYONE'S SPELLS...

BUT I CONVINCED THE WILL OF MAGIC TO NOT DO THAT, SO IT'S MOSTLY NOT CHANGED, AND ISN'T IN DANGER OF CHANGING AGAIN...

YOU CONVINCED THE WHAT NOW?

THE WILL OF MAGIC. THERE'S... SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TYPE OF WIZARD I AM THAT MADE MAGIC ITSELF WANT TO TALK TO ME AND A COUPLE OTHERS BEFORE DECIDING ANYTHING.

BUT STUFF FROM PREVIOUS SYSTEMS OF MAGIC THAT DIDN'T WORK BEFORE DO NOW SO, Y'KNOW... SOME CHANGES.

MAGIC ITSELF? WOULDN'T THAT...

DID YOU TALK TO GOD?!

WHAT? NO!

THOUGH IF THAT WAS GOD IT COULD EXPLAIN HOW MESSED UP EVERYTHING IS.



DID I JUST HEAR  
"A TALKING WAND  
NAMED KEVIN"?

YES, YES YOU DID, AND I  
AM SUDDENLY VERY UPSET TO  
LEARN THAT WE COULD HAVE  
BEEN PARTYING WITH A TALKING  
WAND NAMED KEVIN.

SOMEONE  
MUST HAVE  
MENTIONED  
KEVIN.

YOU KNEW  
ASHLEY WAS  
GETTING WIZARD  
TRAINING!



YEAH, WITH YOU I  
THOUGHT YOU WERE  
GOING TO TEACH HER!

ME? I DON'T  
KNOW HOW TO  
WIZARD!

YOU LITERALLY MADE  
A MAGIC WAND.

WELL, LITERALLY,  
YOU MADE A DRUMSTICK  
MAGIC. BUT STILL.



I'M A VERY SPECIALIZED  
WIZARD. ASHLEY'S MORE OF  
A... STANDARD WIZARD.

EXCEPT  
FOR THE  
WHOLE  
"MADE A  
WIZARD BY  
A DRAGON"  
THING.

SO YOU  
DID MEET A  
DRAGON?!

NOT  
A LIVE  
DRAGON.

ZOMBIE-  
DRAGON?!



THERE IS THAT THEORY THAT GUARDIAN  
SPELLS LIKE MY ANGEL FORM ARE DIVINE.

HEY NOW LET'S NOT START  
A CULT OR ANYTHING.

EVEN IF I DID ASK GOD'S  
PERMISSION WHEN I COPIED  
YOUR ANGEL FORM.

YOU  
WHAT?

ANGEL  
FORM? CAN  
WE SEE IT?

IT'S AN EMERGENCY-  
ONLY THING LITERALLY  
IT WON'T WORK UNLESS  
I'M PROTECTING  
SOMEONE

OOH, THAT  
DOES SOUND  
DIVINE-ISH...

ALSO, AW

I HOPE TO  
SEE IT SOME-  
DAY, TOO

SORT OF

IF WE DID START A CULT, WE  
COULD MAKE ALL THE RULES  
RIGHT? LIKE, THE WILL OF MAGIC IS  
VAGUE AND SORTA NEUTRAL, SO  
WE COULD DO WHATEVER, RIGHT?

JUSTIN NO.

WAIT WAIT WAIT! MAGIC  
WAS GOING TO CHANGE  
BECAUSE TOO MANY  
PEOPLE FIGURED OUT  
HOW TO USE IT, AND  
YOU STOPPED IT?

NO NO NO. THERE'S  
THE POTENTIAL FOR TOO  
MANY PEOPLE FIGURING  
OUT HOW TO USE IT

SO YOU D.DN'T TALK  
IT OUT OF STOPPING AN  
IMMEDIATE DISASTER.

IT CHANGING  
NOW WOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
WAY WORSE!

FOR REASONS  
I FORGET!

MAGIC WANTS  
TO BE USED, BUT  
NOT BY TOO  
MANY PEOPLE.

YOU JUST TALKED  
IT INTO ALLOWING A  
LATER DISASTER.

I SHOULD  
LET TEDD  
EXPLAIN!

THAT'S... VERY  
PROTECTIVE.

YES, DIANE, THERE COULD  
BE A "LATER DISASTER".  
BUT MAGIC CHANGING NOW  
IS WHAT WOULD'VE CAUSED  
AN "IMMEDIATE DISASTER"

THE "MAGIC CHANGING" OPTION  
CAME WITH OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE,  
EFFECTIVELY CHOSEN AT RANDOM,  
SUDDENLY KNOWING EVERYTHING ABOUT  
THE NEW MAGIC SYSTEM AND ABLE  
TO MAKE WANDS LIKE I CAN.



OH DEAR LORD THERE'D  
HAVE BEEN VIDEO TUTORIALS  
ON HOW TO GET ACTUAL  
MAGIC WITHIN A WEEK

EXACTLY. MAGIC SEES  
THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY  
THAN WE DO. SO IT  
DIDN'T GET THAT

MAGIC HAS ACCEPTED THAT  
PEOPLE LEARNING ABOUT IT IS  
INEVITABLE, SO IT'S NO LONGER  
AT RISK OF CHANGING...



...AND NOW WE'VE GOT TIME  
TO PREPARE FOR WHEN IT  
BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

TEDD I'M SORRY  
I THOUGHT...

THAT TOTALLY WASN'T FAIR!

IT WAS PRETTY  
FAIR, ACTUALLY WE  
HAVE BEEN PLAYING  
WITH MAGIC.

I THOUGHT MAYBE  
YOU WERE PUTTING  
MAGIC WAND  
FUN-TIME BEFORE  
PEOPLE'S SAFETY

NEVER  
MIND!

:BLINK:

:BLINK:



ANYWAY,  
I'M...

HANG ON, THIS IS GETTING  
RIDICULOUS. I CAN BARELY  
EVEN SEE SUSAN.

OH! UM, IF WE'RE DOING THAT, MAYBE  
TEDD AND I CAN TRADE PLACES?

OR ELLIOT AND GRACE?

CAN WE MOVE  
THINGS AROUND  
A BIT?

IT BETTER BE YOU AND TEDD.  
ELLIOT'S GOT BROAD SHOULDERS AND  
IT'S ALREADY A TIGHT FIT UP HERE.

THAT'S WHY WE  
WERE ON THE BEAN  
BAG TOGETHER!

I'LL GET YOU  
TWO COMFORTABLE  
WITH CUDDLING  
EACH OTHER YET!

And so the formation of furniture best for  
worshipping television was abandoned, and  
one better suited for discourse was formed

Justin imagining  
the sounds of  
construction all  
the while, for it  
amused him as  
he sat and did  
nothing to help.

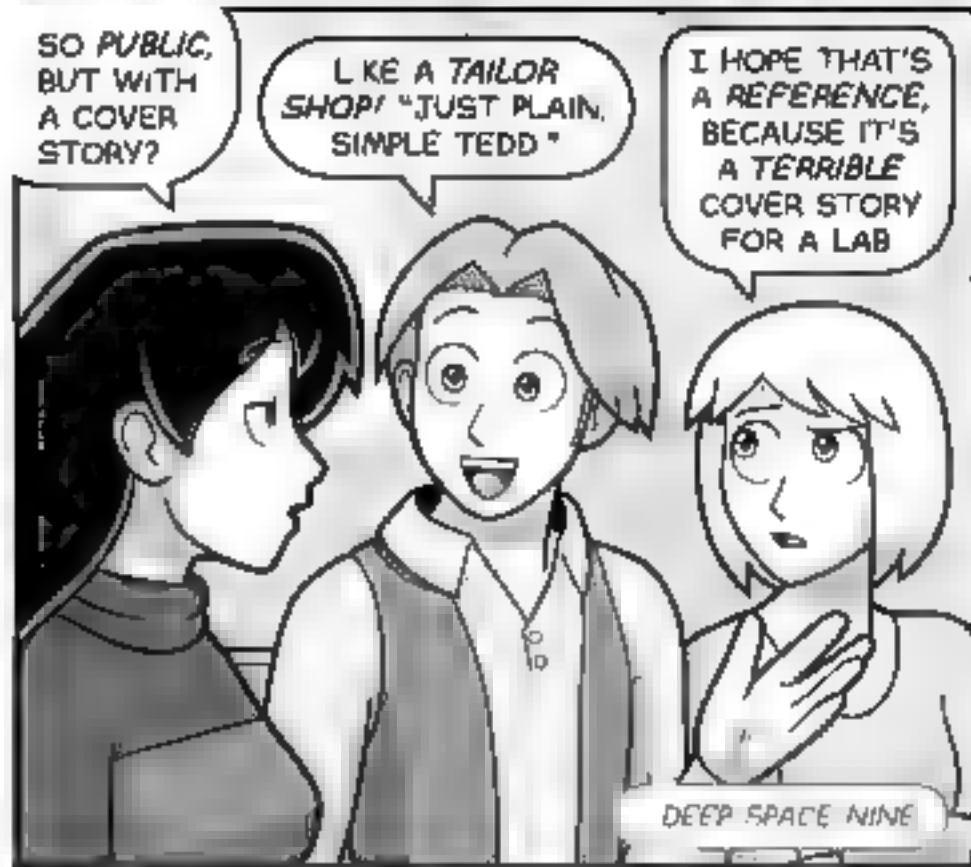
HEHE  
POWER DRILL  
NOISES.

Until someone asked him  
to help take up the dishes.

THAT'S BETTER.

YEP





YOUR LAB'S GOING  
TO BE AT THE COLLEGE  
WE'RE ALL GOING TO!

WAIT, WE ARE ALL GOING TO  
MOPERVILLE UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?

SUSAN, YOU'RE GOING THERE?  
I ASSUMED YOU'D BE GOING TO  
SOME FANCY COLLEGE WHERE  
THE ONLY WAY GUYS LIKE ME  
GET IN THE BUILDING IS BY  
HAVING PART TIME JOBS THERE

YEP YES YEP  
YEAH. TOTALLY YEAH.

I WASN'T SURE I WOULD,  
BUT MY GRANDPA HAS MONEY  
SET ASIDE FOR IT SO...

MOPERVILLE  
UNIVERSITY  
IS HIGHLY  
REGARDED.

BESIDES,  
MY G.P.A.  
ISN'T THAT  
IMPRESSIVE.

BECAUSE  
YOU DO  
TOO MUCH.

DON'T  
START

ACTIVIST  
CLUBS...

...MOVIE  
REVIEWS...

A  
JOB...

YOU HAVE  
A JOB!

YEAH, BUT MY G.P.A.'S  
AN ACCURATE REFLECTION  
OF WHAT LITTLE I HAVE  
GOING ON UP HERE!

YOU  
ARE VERY  
SMART!

YOU COULD BE  
RUNNING THIS  
COUNTRY SOME-  
DAY IF YOU  
FOCUSED!

PLEASE DO. IT  
WOULD BE AN  
IMPROVEMENT

SPEAKING OF TEDD'S LAB,  
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE A  
DEDICATED CLASSROOM FOR AN  
INDEPENDENT STUDY, OR...?

I'M NOT SURE, ACTUALLY ARTHUR  
JUST SAID THERE WAS SPACE ALREADY  
READY AND AVAILABLE FOR IT.

I'LL  
ACTUALLY  
SEE IT IN THE  
SUMMER.



I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT IT'S  
SOUNDING MORE AND MORE LIKE  
A SNEAKY WAY FOR HIM TO HAVE  
EYES AND EARS IN THE COLLEGE

MAYBE A BIT, BUT AT THE  
SAME TIME, IF SOMEONE HAS  
A MAGIC RELATED PROBLEM?

I MIGHT ACTUALLY  
BE ABLE TO HELP THEM  
WHILE LEARNING MORE  
ABOUT MAGIC!



SO IF WEIRD MAGIC STUFF  
HAPPENS, THE HOPE IS PEOPLE  
WILL COME TO YOU, AND  
YOU'LL GET TO HELP THEM?

IF I CAN, YEAH.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN  
THIS JEALOUS OF  
ANOTHER PERSON.



ELLIOT, DO YOU  
GET TOLD YOU'RE  
ADORKABLE A LOT?

WHAT?  
I...  
NO?

WELL, YOU ARE SO  
IS ASHLEY JUST...

A PILE OF  
ADORKABLENESS  
OVER THERE

ANYWAY THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE  
HAPPENING THAN GIVING YOU A LAB  
NO EARLIER THAN THE SUMMER TO  
PREPARE FOR HOW TO USE MAGIC STUFF  
BECOMING COMMON KNOWLEDGE

NONE TAKEN, AND I  
FIGURE THERE IS, TOO,  
BUT NOTHING THEY'RE  
GOING TO TELL ME

MY ABILITY TO "LOOK"  
AT SPELLS COULD BE A  
BIG HELP HOWEVER...

NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU'RE AN  
EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD NEWBIE

"...AND VERY FEW PEOPLE CAN DO THAT"

YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU CAN  
MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE?

I AM NOT NEEDED  
ELSEWHERE AT MOST  
TIMES, AND THIS IS TOO  
(IMPORTANT) YOU ARE  
ALREADY HAMPERED BY  
THE NEED FOR SECRECY

THE UNITED STATES  
MUST BE THE FIRST  
COUNTRY TO DEVELOP  
A MEANS OF MASS  
RESISTANCE TO MAGIC.

I WILL DO EVERY-  
THING I CAN TO  
ASSIST YOU...

DOCTOR  
GERMAHN.

TELL THEM  
ABOUT YOUR LONG  
TERM GOAL!

TH-THAT'S A  
LONG WAYS  
OFF...

BUT IT'S THE  
BEST PART!

YEAH!

**TELL THEM TELL THEM,  
TELL THEM! YEAH!**

WELL, AH.. EVEN BEFORE BEING  
OFFERED A LAB MY GOAL WAS  
TO MAKE IT EASY TO INCREASE  
PEOPLE'S MAGIC RESISTANCES...

THEREBY  
MAKING IT SAFE  
TO GIVE MAGIC  
TO EVERYONE!

THAT'S THE  
WORST IDEA  
I'VE EVER  
HEARD.

THE MAIN THING TO FIGURE OUT IS MAGIC RESISTANCE. MOST PEOPLE CAN'T RESIST SPELLS, OR QUICKLY SHAKE OFF UNWANTED ENCHANTMENTS.

WE CAN SLOWLY BUILD UP MAGIC RESISTANCE WITH EXPOSURE TO ENCHANTMENTS, BUT I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET EVERYONE RESISTANT SUPER FAST

Tick Tick Tick



SO LIKE AN IMMUNE SYSTEM AGAINST MAGIC.

YEAH, MOST PEOPLE BARILY HAVE ONE BEFORE BUILDING IT UP

UNLESS ONE OR BOTH OF THEIR PARENTS HAD A LOT OF MAGIC POWER, ANYWAY

Biological father is a half-immortal wizard

...HUH.

WELL, MAYBE ONE OR BOTH. I HAVE A HYPOTHESIS THAT WHAT MIGHT MATTER MOST FOR INNATE MAGIC ABILITY COULD BE WHETHER THE MOTHER HAD A LOT OF MAGIC POWER WHILE PREGNANT, RESULTING IN PRENATAL MAGIC EXPOSURE

Has exceptional innate magic power and a mother who presumably knows about magic, but hides it

HUH.

BUT THERE'S NOT EXACTLY A LOT OF DATA TO WORK WITH.

SO SOMEONE COULD HAVE A SUPER MAGICAL FATHER, BUT THAT MIGHT NOT AFFECT MAGIC POWER?

WELL, I ASSUME IT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING, BUT IF RESISTANCE COMES FROM EXPOSURE TO MAGIC...

ANYWAY, IT'LL PROBABLY STAY A HYPOTHESIS.

TO START TESTING, I'D NEED TO KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER BEEN ENCHANTED MUCH, HAD A MOM WHO DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MAGIC, AND A DAD WHO DID.



GIVING MAGIC TO EVERYONE RIGHT NOW WOULD BE DANGEROUS. BUT THAT'S WHERE FIGURING OUT MAGIC RESISTANCE COMES IN.

RIGHT, BUT.. YOU'RE SAYING MAGIC RESISTANCE, NOT MAGIC PROOF EVEN IF YOU SOMEHOW MAKE EVERYONE MORE RESISTANT, THEY WON'T BE IMMUNE, RIGHT?

WELL, UH... THE HOPE WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY IMMUNE TO SPELLS WHEN NOT CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, BUT ABLE TO SHAKE OFF ENCHANTMENTS AT WILL...

AND WHAT IF A SNEAKILY-PLACED ENCHANTMENT IS MIND CONTROL THAT MAKES PEOPLE NOT HAVE A WILL OF THEIR OWN?

BECAUSE THAT LITERALLY HAPPENED AT MY SISTER'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY

I, UH...

AND WOULD MAGIC RESISTANCE PREVENT HARM FROM SOMEONE SHOOTING FIRE FROM THEIR HANDS?

OR SOMEONE ELSE TURNING THEMSELVES INTO A DEADLY MONSTER?

AND JUST THE STUFF WE'VE BEEN DOING HERE! SHRINKING, GROWING, MORPHING CLOTHES, CHANGING SEXES.

EARLIER, WHEN YOU AND JUSTIN WENT BEHIND THAT CURTAIN? THAT WAS TO "SCAN" THAT "HOT MOM" FORM, RIGHT?

I'M GUESSING YOU CAN MAKE A SPELL FOR ANYONE TO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE JUSTIN DID?

CAN YOU IMAGINE CRIMINALS ABLE TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT? OR HECK, THE POLICE?

WOULD YOU TRUST THEM WITH THAT POWER?

DIANE, I  
DON'T HAVE AN  
ANSWER TO THE  
MIND CONTROL  
QUESTION.

I DON'T KNOW  
IF ENCHANTMENT  
RESISTANCE  
WOULD TRIGGER  
MORE OR LESS  
UNDER THOSE  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT'S A REALLY  
GOOD QUESTION  
THAT NEEDS  
ANSWERING

THERE'S A LOT  
TO FIGURE OUT  
BEFORE GOING  
PUBLIC, BUT EVEN  
IF WE DON'T DO  
ANYTHING, PEOPLE  
ARE GOING TO  
FIGURE OUT WAYS  
TO GET MAGIC

ONE WAY OR  
ANOTHER, THAT  
INFORMATION  
IS GOING TO  
GET OUT THERE  
FOR PEOPLE  
TO FIND

WE'RE NOT TALKING  
ABOUT PREPARING  
FOR THE INEVITABLE.  
YOU SAID YOU WERE  
GOING TO GIVE  
PEOPLE MAGIC.

SO,  
OKAY,  
YEAH!

I THINK MAGIC CAN  
DO A LOT OF GOOD,  
AND I REALLY WANT  
TO SHARE IT!

WHAT I WANT ASIDE, THOUGH,  
WHICH IS THE BETTER SCENARIO?  
INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO USING  
MAGIC IN A CONTROLLED WAY...

OR EXPLAINING IT AS DAMAGE  
CONTROL AFTER SOMEONE POSTS  
A TUTORIAL ON HOW TO BECOME  
A PYROKINETIC MONSTER PERSON?

THE FORMER  
ASSUMES YOU  
CAN TIME  
THAT SORT OF  
THING WELL

WAITING UNTIL  
YOU HAVE TO  
MEANS GIVING  
PREPARATION  
AS MUCH TIME  
AS LITERALLY  
POSSIBLE

ALL WHILE  
INDEFINITELY  
DENYING PEOPLE  
THE POTENTIAL  
GOOD MAGIC  
COULD DO.

IT MIGHT  
EVEN MEAN  
FINDING A  
WAY TO  
MAKE IT  
NOT  
INEVITABLE

THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS WITH KEEPING MAGIC STUFF SECRET

LIKE YOU KNOW HOW CONSPIRACY THEORISTS WILL BUY INTO ABSURD NONSENSE IN SPITE OF ALL THE EVIDENCE AGAINST IT?

WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO ACTUALLY GO ON, EVERYONE'S VULNERABLE TO BUYING INTO NONSENSE

RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE ARE WIDE OPEN TO PARANOIA AND SCAM ARTISTS. AND HARDLY ANYONE KNOWS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE DOING ABOUT MALL MONSTERS AND WEIRD LIGHTS IN THE SKY

HECK, A COUPLE DAYS AGO, I EVEN HEARD ABOUT PEOPLE TRYING TO SELL FAKE MAGIC STUFF!

UH...

THE STUFF WAS ACTUALLY FAKE, RIGHT?

WHAT? OF COURSE! IT HAD TO BE, RIGHT?

I MEAN, I GUESS MAGIC IS DEFINITELY REAL, AND I WAS TRANSFORMED BY A MAGIC DRUMSTICK.

AND EVEN IF SEERS LIKE YOU ARE RARE, MAYBE OTHER PEOPLE CAN MAKE SIMILAR THINGS SOME OTHER WAY?

OKAY, IF I OVERHEAR ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN, I'LL TRY TO LEARN MORE BUT I'M SURE THEY WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT A SCAM ARTIST

PROBABLY

THERE'S ALSO A PERSONAL COST TO SECRECY

RIGHT NOW, IF SOMEONE GETS A MAGIC SPELL, THEY'RE LIKELY GOING TO HIDE IT

THEY DON'T KNOW SOMEONE LIKE TEDD. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR FRIENDS OR FAMILY WILL THINK.

ODDS ARE THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THEY GOT IT. HOW ARE THEY GOING TO EXPLAIN IT?

SO THEY KEEP IT A SECRET. AND THAT...

THAT'S A BIG SECRET TO KEEP

KEEPING A BIG SECRET LIKE THAT, IT

IT'S ISOLATING.

WANTING DESPERATELY TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU AND FEELING LIKE YOU CAN'T, IT'S...

IT'S LIKE EVERY TIME YOU CAN'T TALK TO THAT PERSON ABOUT IT THE FURTHER YOU FEEL YOU'RE DRIFTING APART.



-WHIMPER-  
-SNIFF-

ASHLEY?

ASHLEY,  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

OH DEAR GOD  
I MADE ASHLEY  
CRY SOMEHOW



I'M...  
I'M FINE!  
-SNIFF-

NANASE.  
YOU... YOU WERE  
SAYING?

ASHLEY

WELL, I...

I REALLY REALLY WANTED TO  
TALK TO MY FRIEND LIZ ABOUT...  
EVERYTHING, BUT... I DIDN'T  
WANT TO BETRAY EVERYONE'S  
TRUST, SO, I HAVEN'T, AND...

SHE CAN TELL I'M NOT  
TELLING HER SOMETHING.  
BUT I CAN'T TELL HER WHAT  
IT IS. AND I FEEL LIKE WE  
ARE DRIFTING APART

A AND I'M GOING TO BE LEARNING  
ABOUT WIZARD TRAINING AND  
STUFF, AND, I FEEL LIKE IF I  
WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH  
ANYONE IT HAS TO BE WITH  
ONE OF YOU, AND...

LIZ AND I ARE  
JUST GOING TO  
DRIFT FURTHER  
AND FURTHER  
APART...

ASHLEY, I... I'M SO, SO SORRY...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT  
IT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

NO, I'M SORRY BECAUSE LIZ  
TOTALLY ALREADY FIGURED OUT  
THAT I'M CHEERLEADERA. AND I  
DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT  
AND YOU ABSOLUTELY SHOULD  
TALK TO HER ABOUT MAGIC.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY SORT OUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU SHOULD SAY YOU CAN'T BE SPECIFIC ABOUT, BUT...

SHE KNOWS...  
WHAT... WHEN?!

WE TALKED YESTERDAY  
SHE KNEW IT WAS YOU  
WHO HELPED CHEERL  
EADRA, AND THAT  
IMMORTAL SAID MY  
NAME, SO... YEAH.

SHE WANTED TO KNOW  
YOU'D BE SAFE AT THIS  
PARTY I TOLD HER YOU'D  
BE SAFE WITH SEVERAL  
MARTIAL ARTISTS AT THE  
HOUSE OF SOMEONE IN  
LAW ENFORCEMENT

THEN SHE  
SHATTERED MY  
WORLDVIEW BY  
POINTING OUT  
HOW OFTEN  
POLICE ARE BAD,  
BUT I MOSTLY  
CONVINCED HER  
THE PARTY WAS  
OKAY?

WHY D.DN'T  
YOU TELL ME?

WHY  
D.DN'T  
SHE TELL  
ME?

BECAUSE SHE KNEW I WAS  
KEEPING THNGS FROM HER  
AND D.DN'T WANT US TO  
DRIFT ANY FURTHER APART

WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL ME?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE? I GUESS I'M USED  
TO KEEPING SECRETS, AND IT WOULD'VE  
FELT LIKE TATTLING ON HER. I DIDN'T  
KNOW IT MIGHT HELP YOUR FRIENDSHIP

PLUS, THAT  
SHATTERING OF  
MY WORLDVIEW  
WAS SUPER  
DISTRACTING.

SPEAKING OF DIANE? I'M  
SURE THERE ARE OFFICERS  
WHO COULD BE TRUSTED. BUT  
IN GENERAL? NO I WOULD NOT  
TRUST POLICE WITH MAGIC.

ESPECIALLY SINCE I DENIED  
BEING CHEERLEADERA, AND SHE  
DEFINITELY DIDN'T BUY IT

YOU REALLY HAVE  
BEEN TALKING TO LIZ

YOU TRUST  
MY DAD WITH  
MAGIC.

YOUR DAD  
SPECIFICALLY I  
WANT TO TRUST  
EVERYONE ELSE IN  
LAW ENFORCE-  
MENT, TOO, BUT I  
DON'T THINK I  
CAN, AND THAT'S  
THE PROBLEM!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO  
BE EVERYONE BEING BAD,  
OR EVEN THE MAJORITY,  
FOR IT TO BE A HUGE  
PROBLEM. NOT WHEN  
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT  
POWER AND AUTHORITY

IT'S ALSO SUPER  
DISTURBING THAT  
THERE'S BASICALLY  
SECRET MAGIC  
POLICE ALREADY  
WITH NO PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTABILITY

THOUGH INCREASING  
TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
MIGHT BE A POINT IN  
FAVOR OF TELLING  
EVERYONE ABOUT  
MAGIC? I DUNNO.

ELLIOT, THANK YOU  
FOR TELLING ME ABOUT  
LIZ THAT... THAT'S HUGE  
I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME  
SOONER, BUT I UNDER-  
STAND WHY YOU D.D.N.T

YOU'RE  
WELCOME AND  
THANK YOU?

MIXED  
FEELINGS, BUT  
I'LL TAKE IT

IF ASHLEY'S TELLING HER  
FRIEND STUFF, I CAN TELL  
RHODA AND CATALINA  
STUFF TOO, RIGHT?

WHAT?  
NO!  
WHAT?!

CATALINA?

**YOU HAVE  
MAGIC?**

ISN'T RHODA  
ONE OF YOUR  
BEST FRIENDS?

YES. SHE IS, SO IF I  
WANTED TO DRAG HER  
INTO THIS MAGIC NON-  
SENSE, SHE'D ALREADY  
KNOW EVERYTHING!

IGNORANCE IS  
NOT A SHIELD.

NO, BUT IT MIGHT KEEP HER  
OUT OF SITUATIONS LIKE  
HUNTING FOR HOODED FIGURES  
AND GETTING ATTACKED BY  
SIX-ARMED MONSTER PEOPLE!

SIX ARMED MONSTER PEOPLE ARE ON THE "CON"  
LIST OF GIVING PEOPLE MAGIC, BY THE WAY

FOR NOW, WE  
REALLY SHOULD  
LIMIT WHO ALL WE  
TELL STUFF TO.

I MEAN, IF LIZ  
HADN'T ALREADY  
FIGURED OUT—

YOU'D TELL ASHLEY  
SHE CAN'T TALK TO  
HER BEST FRIEND?

UH...

BESIDES I WAS GIVEN PSYCHIC MAGIC  
DREAMS BY THE EMISSARY OF MAGIC  
ITSELF THAT SUGGESTED RHODA AND  
CATALINA ALREADY HAVE MAGIC!

EVERYTHING ELSE  
THOSE DREAMS  
SUGGESTED WOUND  
UP TRUE, SO...

YOU WHAT WITH  
THE WHAT NOW

WHAT

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT CATALINA HAVING MAGIC IN YOUR DREAMS.

I HEARD ABOUT IT, BUT YOUR DREAMS ALSO SAID I HAVE A MAGIC MARK, AND I DON'T

YEAH, UH... SARAH, GRACE AND I THINK YOU PROBABLY AWAKENED, AND I GUESS WE SORTA FORGOT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT?

MOSTLY SARAH.

HEY!

SORRY I FIGURED WHEN WE WEREN'T SURE WE SHOULDN'T GO AROUND SAYING THINGS ABOUT CATALINA AND RHODA. AND SHORTLY AFTER WE GOT SURE, THINGS GOT... HECTIC?

IF I'VE AWAKENED, SHOULDN'T I HAVE CAST SOME SORT OF NEW SPELL ON ACCIDENT BY NOW?

EH, IF YOU AWAKENED NATURALLY, THERE SHOULDN'T BE MAGIC POWER BUILDUPS.

YOU MIGHT NEVER CAST ANYTHING BY ACCIDENT UNLESS SOMETHING, I DUNNO, TRIGGERS IT?

TEDD, DON'T YOU HAVE A WAND-LIKE DEVICE YOU CAN USE TO CHECK IF JUSTIN'S AWAKENED?

I'M NOT SURE WHERE THAT IS RIGHT NOW

I'M ALSO PRETTY SURE MY DAD BROKE IT AFTER HE FOUND OUT I'M A SEER.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M FOLLOWING ALL OF THIS RIGHT, BUT...

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR DAD BROKE A VALUABLE MAGIC DETECTION TOOL AFTER HE FOUND OUT YOU'RE MAGICAL?

I THINK HE BROKE IT LAST I SAW IT, HE HAD IT, AND I HEARD SOME THING SHORTLY AFTER THAT AND...

SOME-  
THING  
BROKE  
I KNOW  
THAT  
MUCH.

WHY  
WOULD HE  
DO THAT?

MY PARENTS EXPECTED ME TO BE A POWERFUL MAGIC USER. THAT WAND SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETECT MY POTENTIAL, BUT IT DIDN'T DETECT ANYTHING.

THE IRONY IS IT FAILED BECAUSE THE NOISE SCARED ME, AND BABY ME HAD MAGIC DEFENSES STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP IT FROM WORKING.

THEY THOUGHT I COULDN'T GET MAGIC, LIKE, AT ALL

I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THEY GOT DIVORCED.

-SNIFF-

PERMISSION  
TO HUG?

UH, SURE, I—

HUG

OF COURSE YOU WANT  
TO GIVE EVERYONE MAGIC!

I HAVE SO MANY ARGUMENTS AGAINST GIVING EVERYONE MAGIC, INCLUDING A COUNTERPOINT TO NANASE IN WHICH I POINT OUT THAT THE QUESTION WAS ABOUT GIVING PEOPLE MAGIC. PEOPLE HAVING MAGIC ALREADY CAN BE DISCUSSED WITHOUT GIVING IT TO EVERYONE

BUT I'M  
NOT GOING  
TO SAY ANY  
OF THOSE

YOU  
JUST

INSTEAD, I HAVE  
ONE ARGUMENT, AND  
IT'S NEUTRAL.

NEUTRAL?

YOU'VE SAID MAGIC HASN'T  
BEEN PROPERLY RESEARCHED. WE  
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH GOOD  
OR BAD IT COULD DO YET.

YOU ALSO DON'T  
KNOW FOR SURE IT'S  
INEVITABLE THAT HOW  
TO GET MAGIC WILL  
BECOME COMMON  
KNOWLEDGE

"MAGIC SHOULD BE  
GIVEN TO EVERYONE"  
ISN'T A CONCLUSION.

IT'S A  
HYPOTHESIS.

TECHNICALLY, WHETHER IT SHOULD  
BE GIVEN TO EVERYONE IS AN OPINION,  
AND CAN'T EVER BE AN OBJECTIVE  
SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSION.

NIT-  
PICKING  
ASIDE,  
THOUGH,  
THAT'S...  
ACTUALLY  
VALID.

I'M SURE I'M RIGHT, BUT I HAVE TO PROVE IT EVEN IF ARTHUR AGREES NOW, HE MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND LATER. AND IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S JUST GOING TO BE UP TO US.

I NEED PROOF IT'S FOR THE BEST, AND I CAN'T GET IT IF I DON'T DO THINGS SCIENTIFICALLY

THAT MEANS I NEED TO ELIMINATE MY OWN BIAS AND BE READY TO BE WRONG.

AND MAYBE YOU'LL DISCOVER SOMETHING THAT CAN CONVINCE ME!

OR PROVE ME RIGHT EITHER-OR.

UH-HUH.

AND JUSTIN, MY DAD SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT IF YOU'VE AWAKENED.

HE CAN PROBABLY JUST HAND YOU A BLANK SPELLBOOK AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS OR SOMETHING.

NO THANKS.

SAY WHAT NOW?

ASSUMING I EVEN AM "AWAKENED", I DON'T WANT IT IN A FILE SOMEWHERE.

AS GOOD AS YOUR DAD'S BEEN TO US, I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE IS GOING TO SEE THAT FILE.

JUSTIN EVERYONE KNOWS YOU KICKED A FIRE GUY INTO A RIVER WHILE SWATHED IN ILLUSORY FLAME.

DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO VOLUNTEER ANYTHING ELSE TO THE MAGIC SECRET POLICE



I DON'T THINK SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE LEARNING WIZARDLY STUFF WITH TEDD BESIDES. I'M JUST BEING EXTRA CAUTIOUS.

MAYBE TOO CAUTIOUS, BUT I'VE READ WAY TOO MANY STORIES ALONG THE LINES OF "MAKE ALL THE MUTANTS REGISTER" TO VOLUNTEER ANY MORE THAN I HAVE TO.



I THINK SHE HAS CATGIRL MAGIC SO SHE'S PROBABLY FINE BUT STILL...?

WHOA, HEY YEAH, IF THEY'VE GOT MAGIC, WE SHOULD TALK TO THEM ABOUT IT

IF THEY DON'T, WE SHOULDN'T DRAG THEM INTO ANYTHING.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN I CAN MENTION CATGIRL MAGIC AROUND CATALINA, AND GAUGE HER REACTION, WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING AWAY IF SHE DOESN'T

OR... I KNOW A MAGIC DETECTOR.

OH. OH! NOT SAYING THEIR NAME TO RESPECT THEIR PRIVACY, BUT OH!

YOU'RE SUGGESTING I "LOOK" AT THEIR SPELL AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO COPY IT SO ANY ONE OF US CAN LOOK AT RHODA AND CATALINA TO KNOW IF THEY HAVE MAGIC!

IT CAN TAKE MORE THAN ONE LOOK TO KNOW HOW TO PUT A SPELL IN A WAND.

OR IF I CAN PUT IT IN A WAND I'VE GOT A HUNCH I'D NEED SOMETHING OTHER THAN A DRUMSTICK.

HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY "LOOKED" AT THAT SPELL?

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, "DETECT MAGIC USERS" WOULD BE A HECK OF A SPELL TO COPY

YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COPY IT SOMEDAY IF GIVEN ENOUGH TIME WITH LU THEM.

I WAS THINKING WE COULD JUST GET RHODA AND CATALINA TO PLAY IN A CARD TOURNAMENT ON FRIDAY AND HAVE MY FRIEND LOOK FOR US. IF CONFIRMED, TALK ON SATURDAY

FOR THE RECORD, I ASSUMED THEY WERE LUKE BEFORE THAT LITTLE SLIPUP

HOW THE HELL DID YOU DEDUCE THAT?!

I DIDN'T I DO MAKE LUCKY GUESSES SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW

THAT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SITCOM HIJINKS. I'M STILL GOING TO GAUGE CATALINA'S REACTION TO JOKING ABOUT CATGIRL MAGIC.

HOW IS THAT NOT SITCOM HIJINKS?

THE SIMPLICITY OF IT

LUKE LITERALLY LOOKING AT THEM ISN'T SIMPLE?

TWO PLANS, AND ONE'S GUARANTEED TO WORK! I'M GOING TO TELL RHODA AND CATALINA EVERYTHING ABOUT ME!

MAGIC!

FUZZINESS!

THE FACT THAT I'M PART ALIEN REGARDLESS OF EDWARD SAYING NOT TO!

ARE OFTEN ASEXUAL AND POLYAMOROUS, AND... ARE INNATELY GOOD WITH MATH AND LANGUAGES, AND...

I DON'T KNOW JACK ABOUT URYUOMS.

I'M GOING TO TELL THEM ALL ABOUT MY HERITAGE! LIKE HOW URYUOMS SHAPE-SHIFT! AND... UH.

EGGS?

I'M NOT NEEDED  
FOR TALKING TO  
RHOA AND  
CATALINA RIGHT  
AWAY, AM I?

I'M TOTALLY WILLING,  
BUT NEXT SATURDAY'S  
WHEN I HAVE TO  
MEET UP WITH THE  
GRIFFINS AGAIN.

AND TEDD AND I ARE  
SUPPOSED TO HAVE OUR  
FIRST LESSON WITH  
KEV N. I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW RHOA OR  
CATALINA, BUT... TEDD

I GUESS KEVIN  
WOULDN'T NOTICE  
IF WE WAITED  
ANOTHER WEEK.  
BUT...



LOOK. IF THEY HAVE MAGIC,  
YOU CAN SORT OUT WHO,  
WHEN, AND WHERE THEN.

AND THE  
WHO WILL  
BE ME AND  
SUSAN TO  
START WITH.  
BECAUSE  
OBVIOUSLY

BUT, I MEAN... IF RHOA HAD  
MAGIC... THAT'S HUGE SHE'D  
WANT HELP DEALING WITH IT

SHE'D  
HAVE  
TOLD  
ME  
ABOUT  
IT

GRACE WHAT SORT  
OF MAGIC DOES RHOA  
SUPPOSEDLY HAVE?

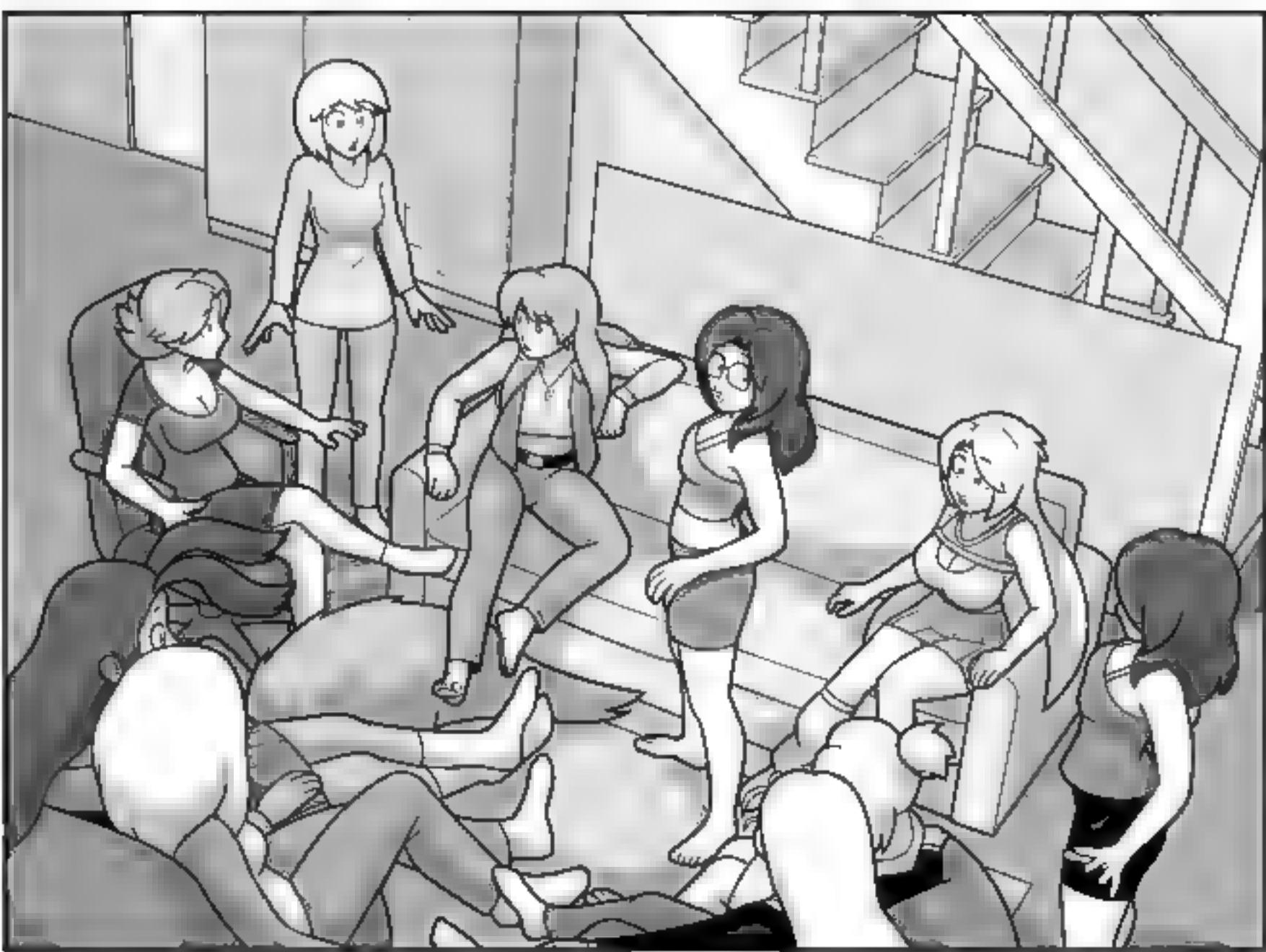


zoom



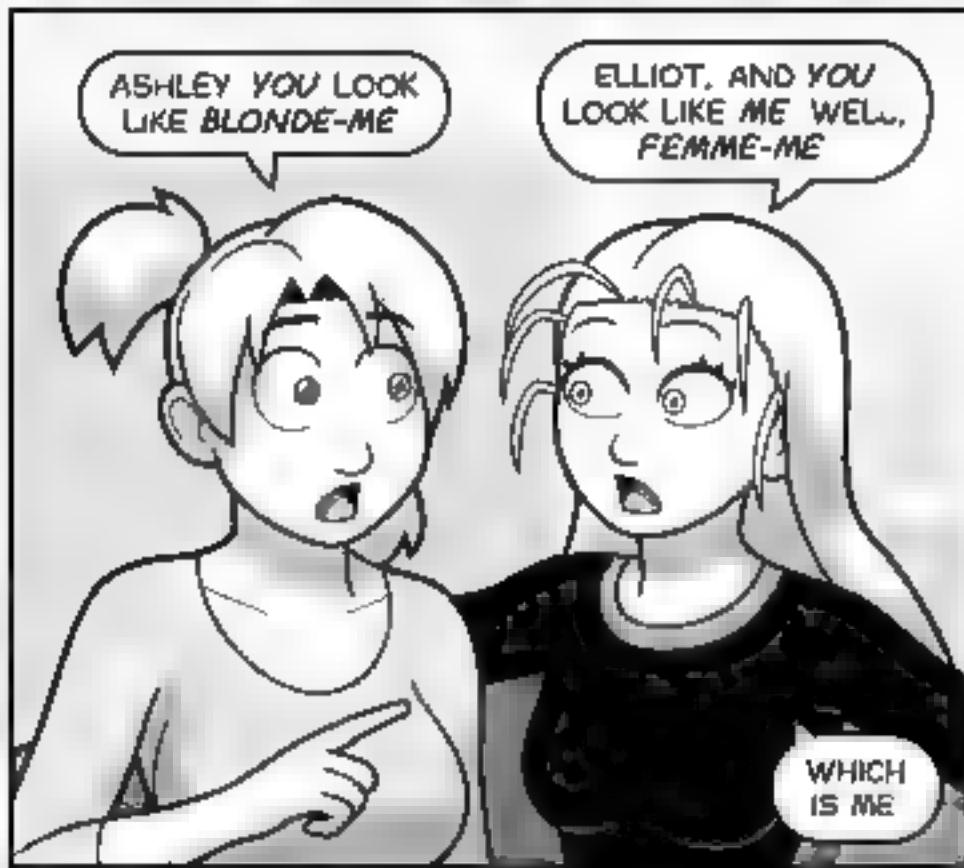


*Fool*



**TO BE CONTINUED...**

**Monday, August 31st**



I'M SUSAN AND... I  
LOOK LIKE JUSTIN?  
SORT OF?

THIS IS LIKE A  
MIX OF WHAT I  
WAS WEARING WITH  
WHAT JUSTIN...



FROM  
THE...

WHY WOULD YOUR DAD  
SUGGEST YOU USE A MAGIC  
DOOR FOR A MIRROR?!

HE WOULDN'T HAVE!  
HE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE  
KEPT IT IN THE HOUSE IF  
HE'D KNOWN!

IT'D BE IN SOME  
WAREHOUSE LIKE  
KEVIN WAS!

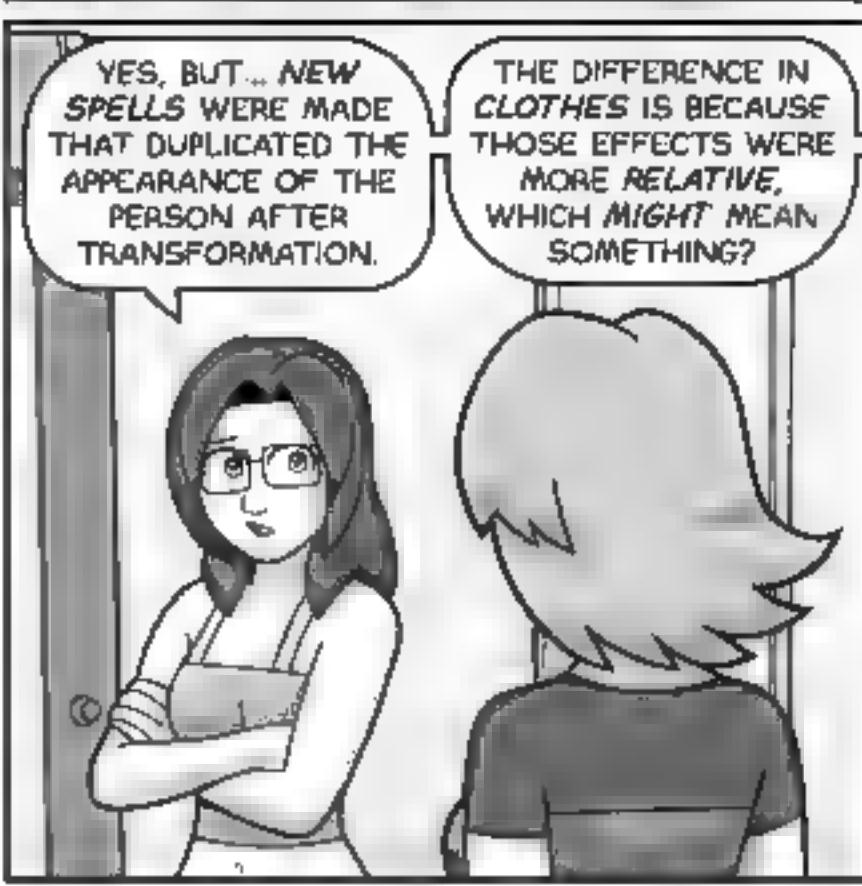


THIS HAS TO BE SOMETHING  
THAT MY MOM LEFT BEHIND WITH-  
OUT TELLING HIM IT WAS MAGIC!

OR MAYBE SHE  
THOUGHT IT WAS  
MAGIC WHEN SHE  
GOT IT, BUT SHE  
COULDN'T GET IT  
TO WORK...

...SO SHE DECIDED IT WASN'T  
MAGIC, AND ABANDONED IT  
**BECAUSE THAT'S  
WHAT SHE DOES!**





I DON'T KNOW IF IT MATTERS, BUT EARLIER, NANASE ONLY TURNED HER HAIR ORANGE

JUSTIN'S CLOTHES BECOMING NANASE-SHAPED MEANS THE DOOR RESIZED THEM ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.

THAT SUPPORTS THE IDEA THAT THESE ARE NEW ENCHANTMENTS BASED ON THE RESULTS OF SPELLS CAST IN PROXIMITY TO THE MIRROR.

THE DRUMSTICK MIGHT STILL WORK, BUT I GIVE IT LOW ODDS.

SO TRY IT?

I THINK I SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE DOOR BEFORE WE USE ANY MORE MAGIC.

WE COULD MOVE IT, OR OURSELVES, BEFORE TRYING, BUT IF EVERYONE'S WILLING TO WAIT A LITTLE.

IT MIMICKED MAGIC WE'D BEEN USING SO THAT SEEKS PRUDENT

I AGREE IN THEORY BUT THIS REALLY IS WEIRD

IF I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT QUICKLY, WE CAN TRY TO UNDO THINGS WHILE AWAY FROM IT

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE CAN INTENTIONALLY STACK ENCHANTMENTS TO MAKE THEM ALL TIME OUT FASTER.

YEAH, NANASE, I'VE HAD THOSE BEFORE. FOREHEAD-TAILS FEEL WEIRD

ACTUAL TAILS. SORTA NICE BUT NOT FOREHEAD TAILS.

IT'S NOT JUST THAT. I THINK I'M A LITTLE CLAUSTROPHOBIC AT THIS SIZE? IT'S LIKE I'M EXTRA AWARE OF EVERYTHING AROUND ME.

WHILE I'M DOING THIS UM...

DO WHATEVER AWAY FROM THE DOOR. I NEED TO FOCUS.

SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE  
SWATTE SWATTE

AND USE EACH OTHER'S NAMES A LOT TO HELP KEEP TRACK OF WHO'S WHO

AND WEAR

SARA NAME TAGS!

WE HAVE NAME TAGS?

I SAW THEM IN AN OFFICE SUPPLY STORE AND THOUGHT "YES, WE WILL NEED THESE AT SOME POINT"

FAIR ENOUGH

OH, AND GRACE? THAT BACKUP PAIR OF GLASSES I TOLD DAD I WOULDN'T NEED, AND HE GOT ANYWAY?

THEY'RE IN A CASE ON MY NIGHTSTAND UPSTAIRS.

THANK YOU, TEDD J.M.

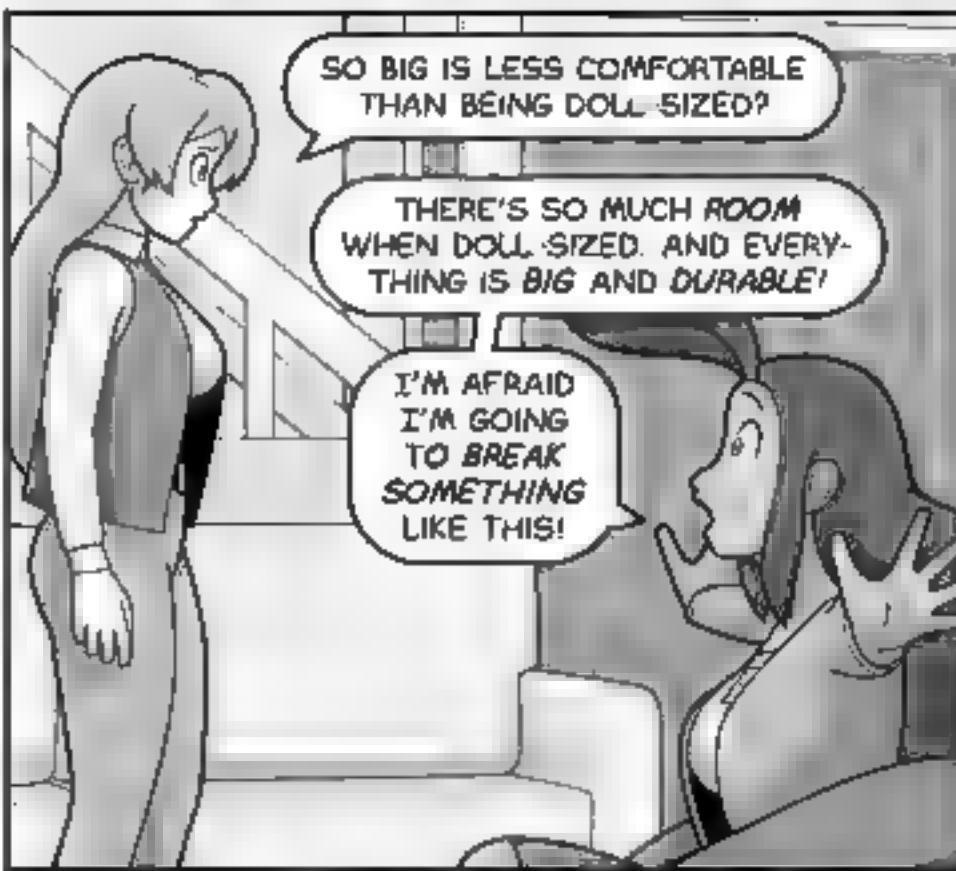
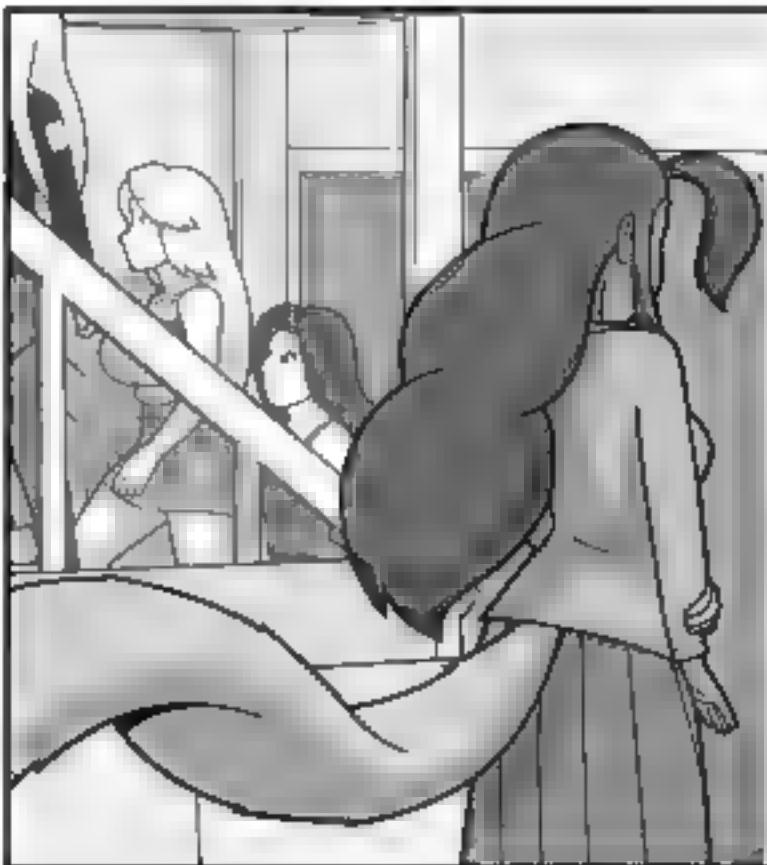
I DON'T GET NEARSIGHTED WHILE IN A CLONE FORM OF YOU DOES MY NEEDING GLASSES RIGHT NOW MEAN ANYTHING?

ELLIOT I, LIKE, REALLY WANT A MIRROR RIGHT NOW NOT ONE OVER THERE, BUT

THERE'S A BIG MIRROR IN AN UPSTAIRS BATHROOM, ASHLEY WE CAN GO THERE

I, SARAH, AM RIGHT BEHIND YOU

DEFINITELY I'M NOT SURE WHAT BEYOND THESE CHANGES INCLUDING STUFF LIKE THAT, THOUGH.



I FEEL LIKE I CAN SENSE THE MAGIC IN THIS DOOR, BUT IS THAT SOMETHING I CAN GENUINELY DETECT, OR AM I BIASED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT -

HEY, TEDD!

SWITCH



NANASE MIGHT HAVE GRACE'S HEIGHTENED SPACIAL AWARENESS THING GOING ON?

SERIOUSLY? THAT'S...

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T SAY "IMPOSSIBLE" BASED SOLELY ON THE TRANSFORMATION GUN AND SPELLS DERIVED FROM IT, BUT...

I'M NOT SURE IF I DO IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT I'M BIG. AND...

CLOSE YOUR EYES.



MY RIGHT HAND IS SOMEWHERE BEHIND YOU. WHERE IS IT?

UM... TO MY RIGHT?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THAT DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING!

TEST IT TEN MORE TIMES WITHOUT SAYING THE RESULTS UNTIL THE END TO CONFIRM.

PLEASE

AYE, CAPTAIN THAT'S THAT CONFIRMED.



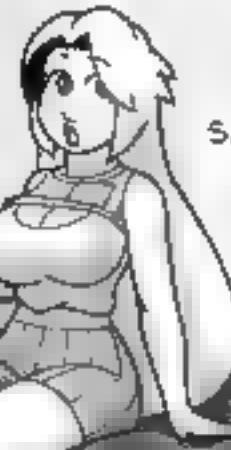


I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO THE MIRROR WITH ELLIOT AND ASHLEY?



GRACE

I WAS, BUT THEN YOU CAME UPSTAIRS, TOO AND I FIGURED I'D GIVE THEM SOME PRIVACY



SARAH

A LITTLE PRIVATE TIME AS EACH OTHER, EH?

HEHE



IT'D BE SO WEIRD IF WE KISSED RIGHT NOW

EH?



LIKE, I LOOK LIKE TEDD. AND YOU LOOK LIKE WELL, A ELLIOT

IT'D BE LIKE IF ELLIOT AND TEDD WERE KISSING!

UH... YEAH?



WHICH I THINK THEY ACTUALLY WANT TO DO AT TIMES? I DUNNO.

I WANT TO GET THEM TO WHERE THEY'RE OKAY CUDDLING THEY'RE BEST FRIENDS. THAT SORTA STUFF SHOULDN'T BE A BIG DEAL.



DO... DO YOU WANT TO KISS?

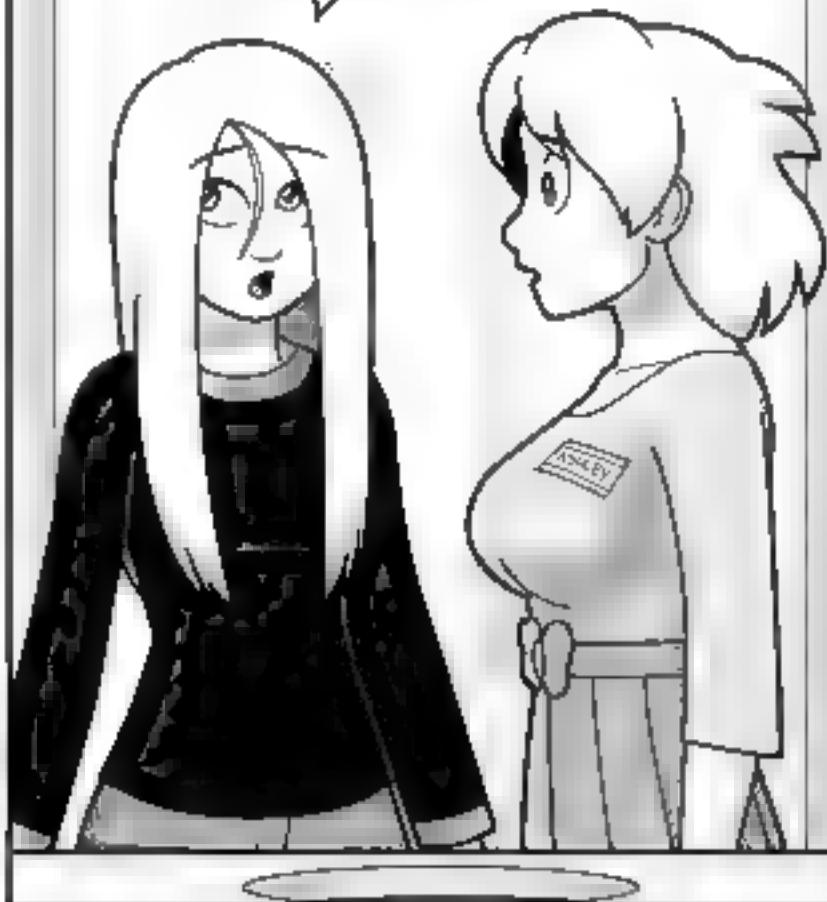
MAYBE IF THEY WERE WATCHING? BUT THEN TEDD'S GOTTA FOCUS RIGHT NOW

IT'S A SHAME WE DIDN'T GET TO BE EACH OTHER. THEN I COULD HUG ME, YOU COULD HUG YOU.. I GUESS WE CAN DO THAT LATER, THOUGH!



ELLIOT, I APPRECIATE YOU'RE TRYING TO BE RESPECTFUL IN A SITUATION WHERE WE SWITCHED BODIES WITHOUT EITHER ASKING THE OTHER FIRST

WELL, WE DIDN'T TECHNICALLY...



BUT MY VOICE IS ALL WRONG, THE FACE IN THE MIRROR IS NOT MY FACE EVERYTHING FEELS SLIGHTLY OFF, AND YOU HAVE MY FACE



THE ONLY REASON I'M NOT FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO TREAT THIS LIKE ONE OF MY HACKNEYED TRANSFORMATION STORIES AND YOU'RE BRINGING ME BACK TO REALITY

SORRY THAT SOUNDS HARSH BUT IT'S TRUE

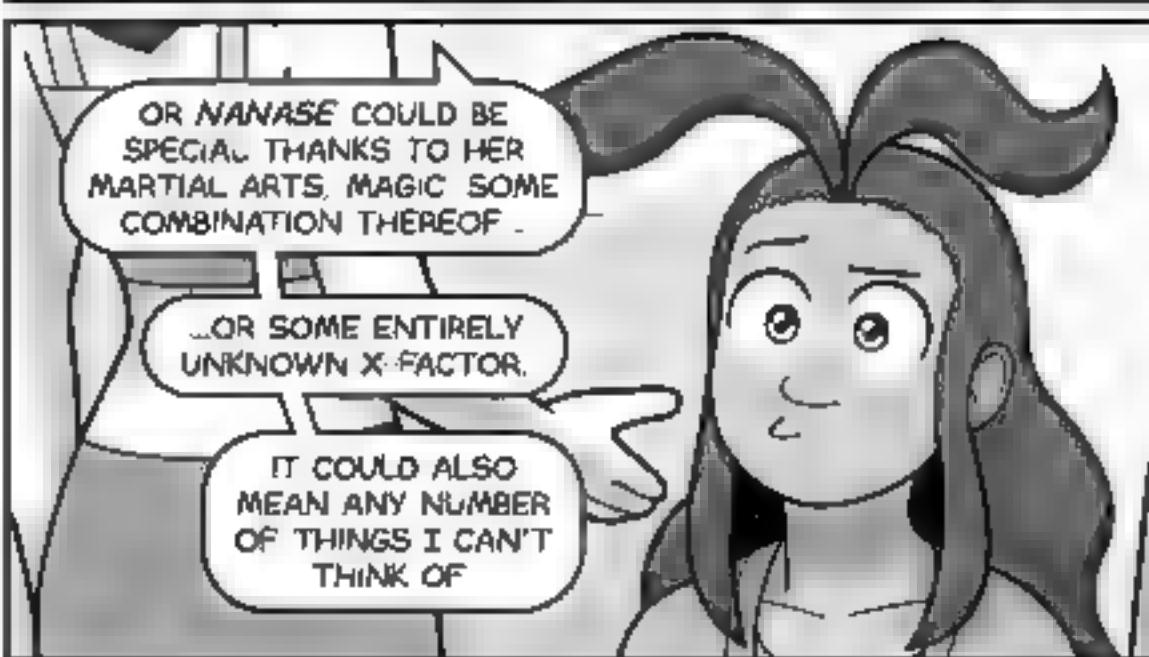
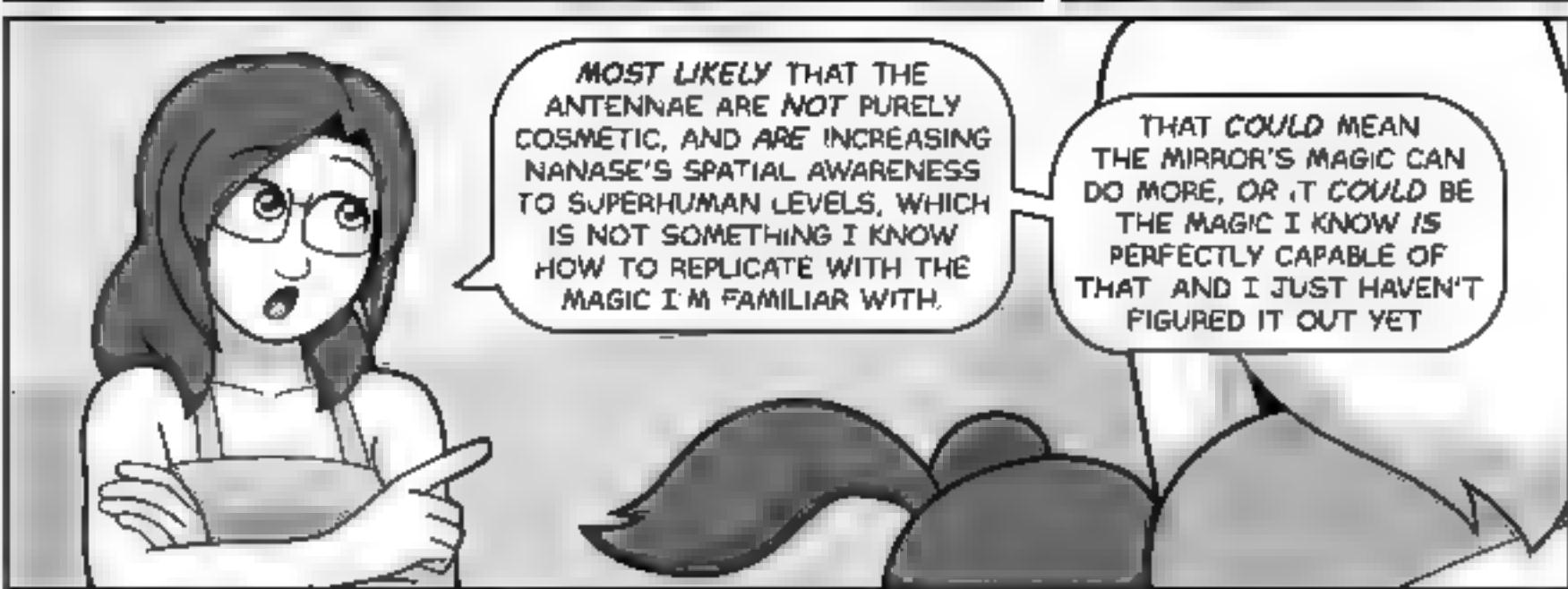


I... UH... WHAT DO I DO?

LOOSEN UP! POSE! BE CURIOUS! ANYTHING BUT STAND RIGIDLY STILL!

OKAY, UH...





YOU OKAY?

YEAH, YOU?

JUSTIN

SUSAN

I'M FINE. SO YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, AND YOU FEEL INTRUSIVE IF YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS TALKING?

I TELL YOU TOO MUCH.

I DON'T KNOW THIS SITUATION WILL EITHER RESOLVE ITSELF OR BE RESOLVED EARLY, AND EVERYONE WHO NEEDS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT HAS IT FROM SOMEONE THEY'RE CLOSE TO.

YEAH, BUT SHE'S CLEARLY GOT SOMETHING ON HER MIND.

IF SHE NEEDS A SOUNDING BOARD, SHE'LL SAY SOMETHING. FOR NOW I'D BE INTRUDING ON HER THOUGHTS.

DIANE'S BY HER LONESOME.

ARE YOU SURE? SOMETIMES, PEOPLE NEED THE INVITE BEFORE THEY'LL OPEN UP

I THINK DIANE'S THE SORT TO CRASH THROUGH A WALL UNINVITED WHEN SHE'S READY TO OPEN UP

SHE DID LITERALLY JUMP ON A LUNCHROOM TABLE TO ANNOUNCE TO EVERYONE THAT SHE'S A VIRGIN..

SHE DID WHAT ON A WHAT NOW?

SO, SARAH, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF STACKED-SHORT-FEMME ELLIOT FORM?

HMPH.  
WELL,  
GRACE...

OKAY, YOU KNOW I LIKE THE OCCASIONAL INDULGENCE OF A MAGICALLY-ENHANCED FORM THAT COULD CAUSE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.



BUT I'D RATHER BE TALL WITH LONG LEGS THAT LOOK LIKE THEY MUST BE BOOSTED BY HIGH HEELS BUT WHOA NO HIGH HEELS AND WALKING AROUND COMFORTABLY!

AND, OF COURSE, STILL LOOK LIKE ME



WELL, MAYBE LOOK LIKE ME IF IT'S JUST US OR SOMETHING, DEFINITELY, BUT IF I WAS EVER OUT MAKING CARS CRASH...

WHY DO YOU WANT TO MAKE CARS CRASH?

I'M JOKING ABOUT THAT PART, GRACE.



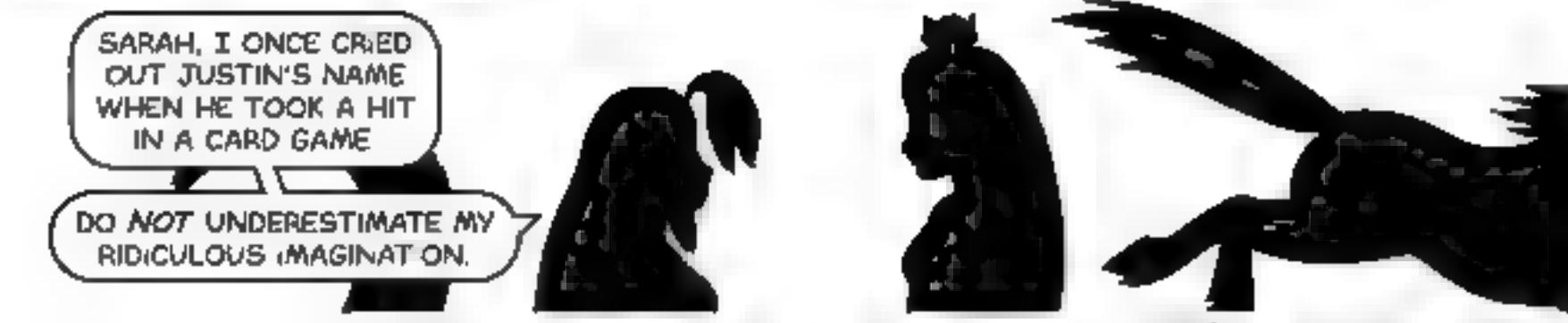
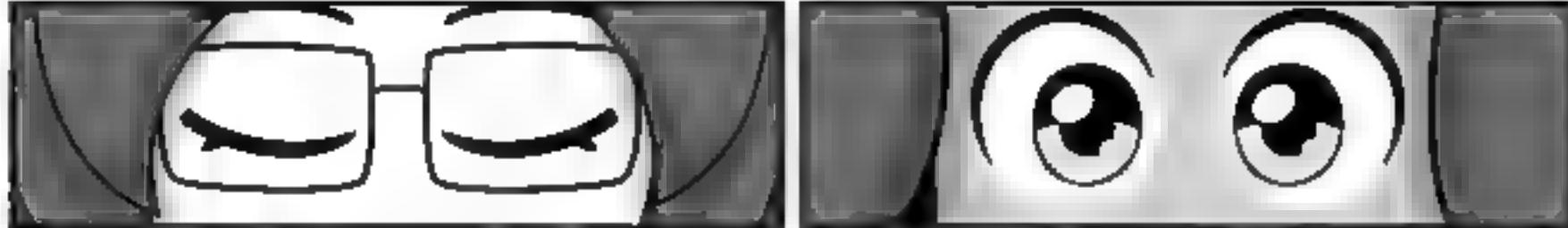
PLUS I'M SEEING SOMEONE RIGHT NOW SO...

OH, RIGHT PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP THEIR EYES ON THE ROAD ANYWAY



OF COURSE, IN THE FANTASY, IT'S ALL APPRECIATIVE LOOKS, SLACKED JAWS ON BOYS, JEALOUS LOOKS ON MEAN GIRLS, AND NOT LEWD CAT CALLS AND CREEPY STUFF





OKAY SO.. I  
DON'T WANT TO  
GO INTO TOO  
MUCH DETAIL.

I MEAN I DO, BUT I DOUBT  
SAM WOULD LIKE IT AND ANY  
SECOND TEDD'S GOING TO  
BARGE IN TO SAY SHE FIGURED  
OUT THE MIRROR AND WE CAN  
DO MAGIC AGAIN.

SAM SAID HE  
WASN'T SURE  
IF HE WANTED  
TO DATE ME  
OR NOT

I SUGGESTED THAT  
SINCE HE WASN'T SURE, WE  
SHOULD, YOU KNOW, DO A  
LITTLE EXPERIMENT

AN EXPERIMENT?

WE SMOOCHED

WHICH IS LITERALLY KISSING  
AND TELLING, BUT IT'S, LIKE,  
THE MINIMUM I CAN SAY TO  
EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED?

SO HE DECDED  
HE DOES WANT  
TO DATE!

YEP! NO MORE  
"MAYBE DATES"!

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS MEANS HE  
OPENED UP MORE TO SARAH THAN  
THAT, BUT IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS  
AND SARAH'S HAPPY SO WOO!

I MEAN, IF SARAH DOESN'T KNOW SAM IS TRANS, SAM MIGHT FEEL CONFLICTED ABOUT IT, BUT HE HAS ME TO TALK TO IF HE NEEDS TO, AND IF HE DOESN'T, THAT'S FINE!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE SARAH WOULD CARE EITHER WAY, BECAUSE SHE'S SARAH!

YOU CAUGHT ME AND BROUGHT ME BACK HERE, DIDN'T YOU?

YEAH, YOU COLLAPSED AFTER YOU SCARED THAT MUGGER AWAY



BUT WEREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ME AFTER I JUST... SORTA TURNED INTO A MONSTER..?

YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER, GRACE. DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE ONE, EITHER.

YOU'RE THE COOLEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET



BUT SHE IS, AND SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT!



OH, TO THINK THAT I  
LOOK LIKE MY GIRLFRIEND!  
SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES  
TO DO

THINGS! YES! MORALLY  
QUESTIONABLE THINGS.  
THINGS SUCH AS.

TEMPTATION?!

ASHLEY, I'M SORRY  
I KEEP GETTING YOU  
IN WEIRD AND...

DANGEROUS  
SITUATIONS.

IF...  
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DATE  
ME ANYMORE AFTER THIS...

I'LL UNDERSTAND...

ASHLEY

ASHLEY

ASHLEY

ELLIOT, IT IS  
NOT YOUR FAULT  
THOSE THINGS  
HAPPENED.

A DEMIGOD SIC'D A  
GRIFFIN ON YOU AND AN  
ALTERNATE UNIVERSE YOU  
NEEDED A NEW BODY

THOSE ARE  
NOT THINGS  
YOU MADE  
HAPPEN.

EVEN THIS IS  
BECAUSE TEDD'S MOM  
IS IRRESPONSIBLE OR  
SOMETHING.



IT DOESN'T MATTER  
THAT IT'S NOT MY FAULT!  
YOU WERE INVOLVED  
BECAUSE YOU WERE  
NEAR ME!

YOU GOT  
HURT BECAUSE  
OF ME!

BECAUSE I'M  
THE PROBLEM!

NO! SEE?  
YOU'RE STILL  
BLAMING  
YOURSELF!



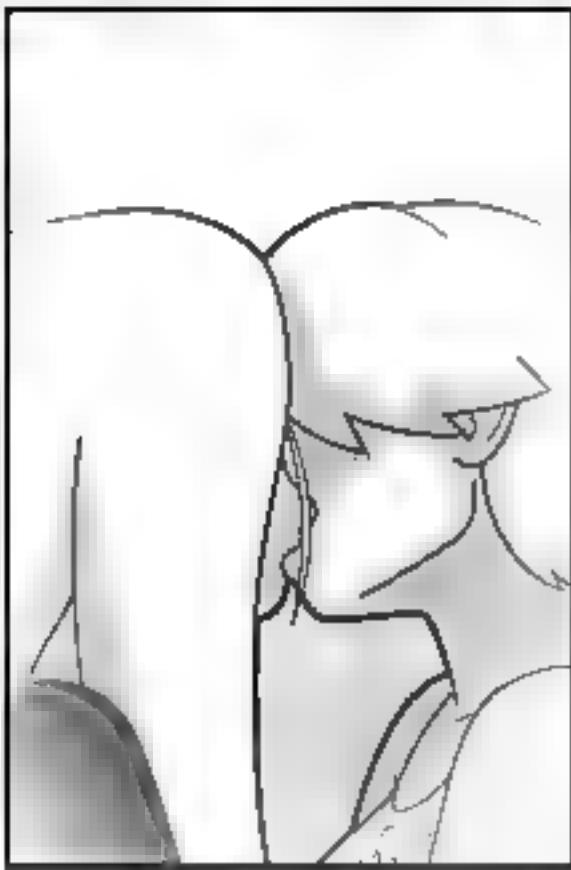
I KICKED  
THE SOCCER  
BALL AT A  
GRIFFIN!

MAGUS EXPLAINED  
TO ME WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING, WHICH  
ALSO LET YOU AND  
ELLEN KNOW!

I THREW A TALKING  
WAND AT A MAGIC ROBOT,  
WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT  
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED  
SOMETHING!

AND I'M HERE NOW TO  
TELL YOU YOU'RE NOT A  
PROBLEM, AND I WANT  
TO BE WITH YOU!





IF THIS CAN BE REPLICATED,  
IT COULD SOLVE SO MANY  
POTENTIAL ISSUES WITH...

HEY, TEDD?

SORRY I  
JUST...

WHOA  
JH...



MY REFLECTION?

ME WITHOUT  
ENCHANTMENTS!  
COOL, RIGHT?

YOU CAN SET THE  
MIRROR SO IT SHOWS  
PEOPLE AS THOUGH THEY  
WEREN'T ENCHANTED!

IT... REALLY?

TURNING IT ON WAS A LOT LIKE  
USING A WAND. I'D NEVER HAVE  
FOUND IT WITHOUT "LOOKING"

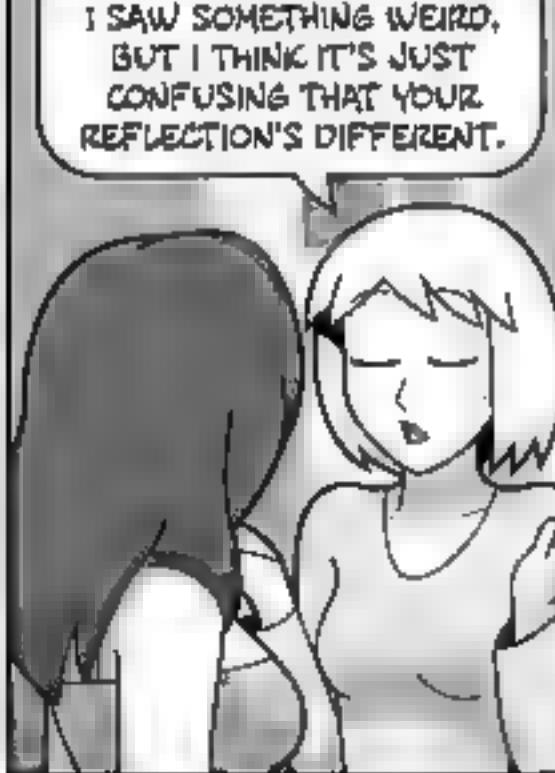
IT'S NOT PERFECT. IT LINES UP  
AT THE MIDDLE OF THE FACE, SO  
NANASE AND ELLEN LOOK LIKE  
THEY'RE FLOATING AND JUSTIN CLIPS  
THROUGH THE FLOOR. BUT STILL!



BUT YOUR  
REFLECTION

NEVER MIND, I THOUGHT  
I SAW SOMETHING WEIRD,  
BUT I THINK IT'S JUST  
CONFUSING THAT YOUR  
REFLECTION'S DIFFERENT.

...MY PUPILS ARE  
SUPER DILATED FOR A  
REASON, YOU KNOW  
I SAW THAT SPELL



THAT  
SPELL YOU  
JUST CAST  
I SAW IT

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
I DON'T KNOW  
ANY.

WAIT  
DID I JUST  
TRANS-  
FORM?!

WHAT?  
NO YOU...

I WHAT?

TEDD?



SAY  
YOU'RE A  
T-REX

WHAT

INDULGE ME,  
PLEASE SAY  
YOU'RE A T-REX  
SAY IT LIKE YOU  
MEAN IT

THIS  
WON'T  
TURN ME  
INTO A  
T-REX.  
WILL IT?

NO. I WOULD DEFINITELY  
CHOOSE A DIFFERENT ANIMAL  
IF THAT WAS THE SITUATION.

FINE. I'M A T-REX.





I'M GENDERFLUID! SOMETIMES A GUY, SOMETIMES A GIRL, SOMETIMES, I GUESS, CONFUSED SHRUG?

ANYWAY I HAVE A SPELL THAT LETS ME CHANGE MY DEFAULT FORM, SO MY FEMININE FORM IS NOT AN ENCHANTMENT

LIKE, A PERMANENT TRANSFORMATION?

YOU HAVE A SPELL THAT CAUSES PERMANENT TRANSFORMATION?!

YEAH, BUT I CAN ONLY USE IT ON MYSELF, SO NO BIGGIE!

YES BIGGIE!

ANYWAY, YOU DO HAVE A SPELL!

NO, I DON'T!

AND I BELIEVE YOU THINK THAT, BUT YOU DO!

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT "SPELL" AM I SUPPOSED TO BE CASTING?

IT'S NOT THE SORT OF SPELL I'M USED TO. BUT FIRST IMPRESSION?

I'D SAY IT'S A CHARISMA BOOST

SPECIFICALLY, FOR BEING MORE CONVINCING.

I'VE BEEN  
USING MIND  
CONTROL?!

NO NO NO!  
YOUR SPELL ONLY  
TARGETS YOU!

IT JUST HELPS  
WITH TONE OF VOICE,  
BODY LANGUAGE,  
STUFF LIKE THAT!

AND SINCE IT'S NOT  
SCANNING PEOPLE, I  
BET IT'S NOT EVEN  
FOOLPROOF

GIVE THAT SPELL TO  
SOMEONE WITH TERRIBLE  
SOCIAL SKILLS. AND  
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO  
SAY TERRIBLE THINGS  
WITH CONFIDENCE

SO I GUESS IF IT WERE  
A SKILL BOOST IN A GAME,  
IT WOULD MULTIPLY HOW  
GOOD THE SKILL IS.

A BOOST TO A LOW  
SKILL STILL WOULDN'T  
RESULT IN MUCH.

**Persuasion Check!**  
Expert - 75 to pass

$2 \times (16) = 32$   
FAIL

$2 \times (50) = 100$   
SUCCESS!

ANYWAY IT'S PRETTY SUBTLE IF  
SOMEONE DID IT IN A MOVIE, THEY'D  
HAVE TO DO FANCY DIRECTING TO  
IMPLY IT WAS EVEN HAPPENING

I GUESS  
IN A COMIC  
THEY'D  
CHANGE UP  
THE FONT?

CONVINCING  
VOICES

OH, BUT THAT IMPLIES  
DOING A VOICE, AND  
YOU DON'T SOUND  
DIFFERENT MIGHT BE  
EASY TO MISS, TOO.

MAYBE IT'D  
BE BETTER TO  
CHANGE THE  
DIALOGUE  
BALLOON  
INSTEAD?

CONVINCING  
VOICE!

YEAH, DOUBLE-  
LINE IT OR  
SOMETHING!  
MAKE IT REALLY  
OBVIOUS SOME-  
THING IS UP!

I'M SORRY,  
WHAT WERE WE  
TALKING ABOUT?

HOW I  
HAVE A  
CREEPY  
SPELL

OH RIGHT I  
MEAN, AH. IT'S  
NOT THAT  
CREEPY

IT IS CREEPY! AND YOU SAY IT ONLY AFFECTS ME, BUT IT ENCHANTING OTHER PEOPLE TOTALLY EXPLAINS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED RECENTLY!

THERE... MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUMORS ABOUT ME AND LUCY SLEEPING AROUND WITH GUYS WE'D DATED.

AND I MIGHT HAVE JUMPED UP ONTO A CAFETERIA TABLE TO TELL EVERYONE I WAS A VIRGIN.

IT DOES?

WOW UM... AND THEY BELIEVED YOU?

I DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD! I JUST WANTED TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM LUCY...

...AND HOPEFULLY GET LIARS WHO KNEW THEY WERE LIARS TO DOUBT OTHER LIARS!

I MEANT EVERY WORD I SAID, BUT I WAS MOSTLY TRYING TO BE LOUD!

HOLD UP YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO BE CONVINCING?

I DIDN'T THINK I'D CONVINCE ANYONE WHO HADN'T BEEN LYING ABOUT ME, BUT OF COURSE I DID IF I USED MAGIC!

DIANE, IF YOU MOSTLY JUST WANTED TO HOLD EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, I'M NINETY-NINE PERCENT SURE THAT'S WHAT YOUR SPELL WOULD'VE HELPED YOU WITH.



IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU ANY MORE BELIEVABLE.

EH?

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

LIKE, HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY BELIEVED YOU?

UM... A GUY I DATED YELLED AT ANOTHER GUY I DATED FOR LYING, AND THEN THAT GUY YELLED BACK AT HIM FOR LYING, CONFIRMING THEY'D BOTH BEEN LYING...

AND IT SORTA WENT ON FROM THERE?

SO IF THOSE TWO HADN'T SPOKEN UP, THE WHOLE THING MIGHT'VE GONE EXACTLY AS YOU'D EXPECTED?

UH... YEAH, I GUESS IT COULD'VE.

DIANE, THAT WASN'T MAGIC

THAT WAS DUMB LUCK

OR I GUESS SMART LUCK, BECAUSE LIARS SUSPECTING OTHER LIARS OF LYING IS WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR?

IT'S JUST LUCKY HE SPOKE UP AND HIS FRIEND CONFIRMED IT

ANYWAY, THERE WAS SOME SORT OF LUCK INVOLVED OF VARIABLE INTELLECT

I STILL THINK IT'S A CREEPY SPELL, AND I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO NOT USE IT, BUT THANK YOU. I NEEDED TO KNOW, AND YOU'VE CONVINCED ME IT'S NOT EVIL MIND CONTROL.

JUST MANIPULATIVE CREEPINESS.

I GUESS I'D BETTER TELL EVERYONE IT'S A THING I CAN DO IF I WANT THEM TO EVER TRUST ME IN THE FUTURE...

WE KNOW

YOU WERE VERY LOUD.

I'D SAY I TRIED NOT TO LISTEN, BUT I DON'T HAVE A SPELL THAT WOULD HELP ME SOUND SINCERE.

HOW DID I EVEN GET THIS SPELL? I DEFINITELY DIDN'T HAVE IT WHEN THE GRIFFINS WERE HERE

THERE... WAS AN IMMORTAL IN THE HABIT OF GIVING PEOPLE ACCESS TO MAGIC WITHOUT THEM KNOWING BY GIVING THEM MAGIC MARKS.

MM-HM.

SO... WHAT DID YOU ORIGINALLY WANT TO SAY TO ME?

OH! RIGHT! THE WHOLE REASON I CAME OVER HERE!

ALSO, IS IT WEIRD THAT I TASTED SOMETHING LIKE PANCAKES WHEN IT HAPPENED?

IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING, I CAN'T ACCIDENTALLY CAST A SPELL TO HELP ME SOUND NONCHALANT

I WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT I WAS ADOPTED AND THAT MAYBE I INHERITED ENOUGH RESISTANCE THAT MAYBE THE MIRROR DIDN'T MISS ME?

NOBODY ELSE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT...

Long ago, after attempting to save a giant boar .

RAVEN SENSES MAGIC WITH HIS EARS?

YEAH HE TASTES IT

WITH HIS EARS.

YEAH. THE SPELL ON THE BOAR WAS SWEET APPARENTLY SPICY WOULD BE BAD?

HE HAS TASTE GLANDS ON HIS EARS?

I GUESS?

EARS ARE SO FAR REMOVED FROM THE NOSE - HOW DOES THAT WORK FROM AN OL FACTORY SENSE?

I DON'T KNOW? IT PROBABLY DOESN'T?

RIGHT, BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING PHYSICAL BEING CONTACTED AND MAGIC DOESN'T SMELL... OR MAYBE MAGIC DOES SMELL? WE ASSOCIATE TASTE WITH TONGUES, BUT OUR SENSE OF SMELL PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN

TEDD.

RIGHT SORRY GOT SIDETRACKED. YOU WERE SAYING?

A.. SWEET PANCAKE?

ARE THERE.. NOT-SWEET PANCAKES?

OH THANK GOODNESS.

I'VE HEARD OF TASTING MAGIC BEFORE BUT...

WHAT?  
NO, I...

I MEAN.  
I DIDN'T  
BEFORE

ARE THEY POINTY?!

YOU DON'T.  
HAVE POINTY  
ELF EARS, DO  
YOU?

NO.  
ROUNDED.

OH.

I GUESS  
THAT'S  
GOOD.

YOU WANT  
POINTY ELF  
EARS, DON'T  
YOU

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T,  
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ME  
I WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD  
WITH ELF EARS!

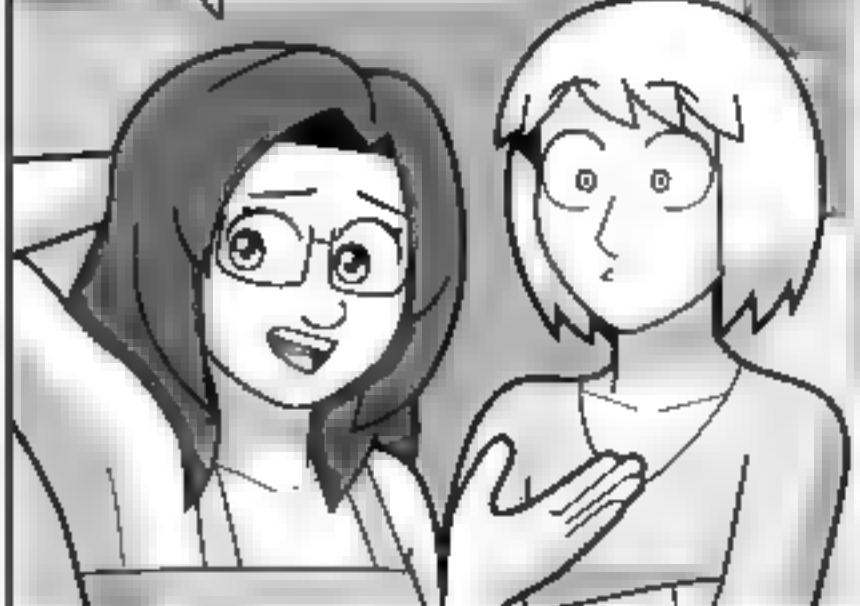


I DON'T KNOW A LOT  
ABOUT IT, BUT I'M AWARE  
OF A HALF-IMMORTAL WHO  
SOMEHOW TASTES MAGIC  
WITH THEIR EARS?

FOR A  
MOMENT, I  
THOUGHT  
BUT NAH.

STILL, IT'S  
STRANGE THAT  
YOU TASTED  
PANCAKES.

YES STRANGE  
PANCAKES ARE  
STRANGE I HAVE  
TO GO DO THING.



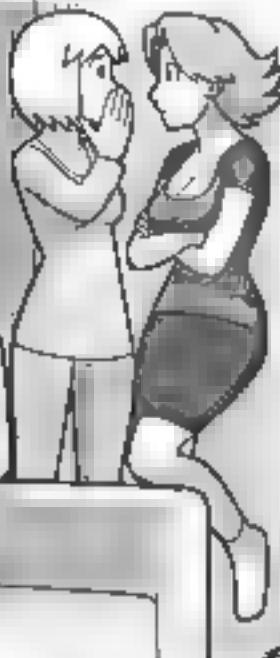


SO SUSAN... WERE YOU THINKING YOU MIGHT TELL EVERYONE ABOUT HOW EXACTLY WE'RE RELATED TONIGHT, OR

DIANE

SUSAN

NOT UNLESS I HAVE TO. NO. WHY?



JUSTIN

NANASE

ELLEN

IT'S JUST TEDD ASSUMES THE MIRROR MISSED ME, WHEN YOU KNOW

MY BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S SOME SORT OF ELF

I DON'T KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO FIGURING THINGS OUT THAT I MIGHT'VE BLOCKED IT WITH ELFNESS, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT WOULD MATTER TO TEDD'S DEDUCTIONS. BUT FOR ALL I KNOW, IT MIGHT

AND IF I BLOCKED IT WITHOUT TRAINING IT'S GOT TO BE HEREDITARY, RIGHT?

TEDD WAS SAYING MAGIC RESISTANCE MIGHT COME FROM ONE'S MOTHER



YEAH, I KNOW, BUT ELF ELF IS AN X-FACTOR.

RIGHT BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER IS.

GEE, THANKS FOR BRINGING THAT UP. THAT'S HOW I BRING UP THE MAYBE BLOCKING WITH TEDD WITHOUT MENTIONING RAVEN. I SEE. GOTCHA.



SO... YOU THINK  
TEDD MIGHT NEED  
TO KNOW WHO  
YOUR BIOLOGICAL  
FATHER IS?

I DON'T KNOW!  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT PANCAKES  
MEAN, SUSAN!

IF IT MEANS  
SOMETHING AND  
TEDD ASSUMES  
IT DOESN'T...

I CAN GUARANTEE THAT  
TEDD IS CONSIDERING EVERY  
POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR  
WHY YOU TASTED PANCAKES  
AND WON'T FULLY DISMISS  
ANY OF THEM WITHOUT AN  
ANNOYING AMOUNT  
OF EVIDENCE.

OH TEDD'S  
WAY INTO THE  
SCIENTIFIC  
METHOD, HUH?

IT'S KIND OF  
SAD THAT'S  
UNUSUAL,  
REALLY

THE REAL  
QUESTION IS, DO  
YOU WANT TO  
TALK TO TEDD  
ABOUT IT?

EVENTUALLY? THERE'S PROBABLY  
STUFF I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT  
BEING... I DON'T KNOW

WHAT-  
EVER  
I AM.

BUT I'D  
WANT A  
PRIVATE  
TALK? A  
PARTY'S  
NOT THE  
BEST  
FOR IT

I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH TEDD ACTUALLY  
KNOWS ABOUT IT. YOU MIGHT NEED TO TALK  
TO YOUR DAD ABOUT IT AT SOME POINT

YOU KNOW I WAS TALKING ABOUT  
RAVEN AND ARE PRETENDING YOU DIDN'T  
TO MAKE A POINT, AREN'T YOU

MY DAD DOESN'T  
KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT IMMORTALS.

I DIDN'T SEE THAT GUY AROUND  
WHEN I NEEDED SOMEONE TO  
READ ME A BEDTIME STORY!

DIANE, THE LAST TIME I WANTED MY DAD TO READ ME A BEDTIME STORY, I CAUGHT H.M CHEATING ON MY MOM.

I TOLD ON H.M THE NEXT DAY

UH.. YIKES. SORRY

RAVEN DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE COULD HAVE CHILDREN.

YES, AND MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER NEVER TOLD HIM.

WHICH MAKES IT MOST LIKELY THAT, WHILE LOOKING COLLEGE AGED, HE HAD AN ANONYMOUS ONE-NIGHT-STAND IN WHICH HE LEFT NO CONTACT INFORMATION.

LEAVING MY MOTHER, LIKELY A YOUNG WOMAN, PREGNANT AND ALONE WITH NO WAY TO FIND THE FATHER BEYOND LOOKING FOR A YOUNG MAN WHO, BY MOST ACCOUNTS DID NOT EXIST

I'M NOT READY TO FORGIVE WHAT HE PUT HER THROUGH. EVEN IF IT WAS BY ACCIDENT

THAT ONLY MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED...

I GIVE IT GOOD ODDS. I'M BEING GENEROUS BY NOT ASSUMING MY MOTHER WAS A STUDENT OF

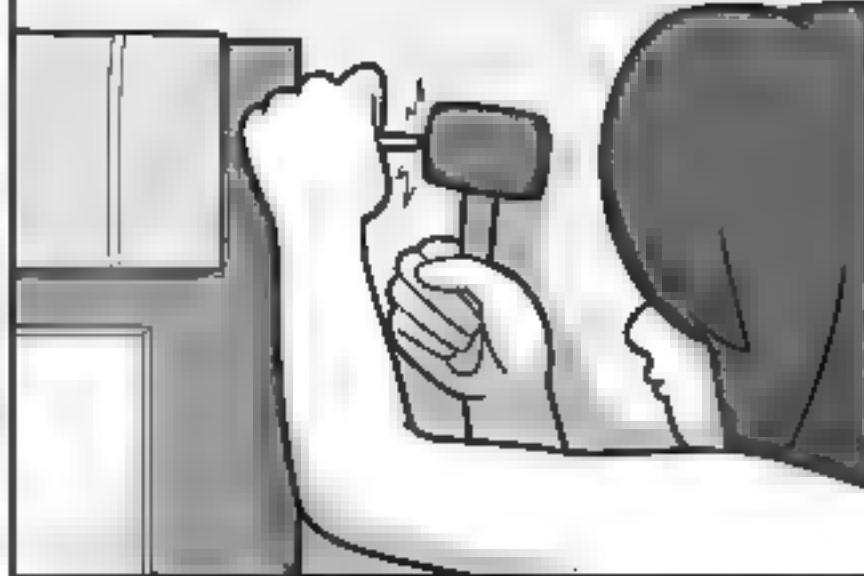
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

THWACK THWACK THWACK

THWACK THWACK THWACK



TAP TAP TAP



YOU'RE BIG!

I HAD TO CAST SOMETHING TO TEST THE DOOR, AND I NEEDED TO BE TALLER FOR THIS.

FOR... ARE THOSE CHOPSTICKS YOU'RE STICKING IN THE DOOR?

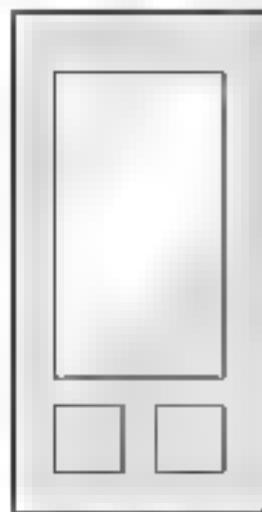
CHEAP, DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS. I TRIED TO MAKE WANDS OUT OF THEM BEFORE THE DRUMSTICKS.

THEY'RE EASILY CHARGED WITH MAGIC. BUT LOSE IT ALMOST INSTANTLY



MAGIC POWER IN THE DOOR SHOULD ONLY GET TO WHERE THE CHOPSTICKS ARE IF WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE STORED IS FULL.

AS SUCH, THE CHOPSTICKS SHOULD ABSORB AND RELEASE EXCESS MAGIC POWER IN THE DOOR, KEEPING IT FROM OVERLOADING.



PRESSURE RELEASE CHOPSTICKS.

PRESSURE RELEASE CHOPSTICKS.





DO YOU THINK YOU CAN COPY  
OTHER GRACE ABILITIES?

SUCH AS SHAPE SHIFTING  
AND TELEKINESIS?

JUSTIN

NANASE

ELLEN

YEAH. OOH, OR  
MATH! SHE'S LIKE  
A CALCULATOR!

UM... NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED  
AND SEVENTY-THREE, TIMES TWO  
HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE EQUALS...

I'VE  
NO IDEA.  
A LOT

DARN. WELL, I'M NOT SURE HOW I'D  
GET AWAY WITH TAK NG A MATH TEST  
WHILE LOOKING LIKE GRACE ANYWAY

I'M ASSUMING I CAN'T DO THE OTHER THINGS. EITHER,  
BECAUSE GRACE USES A DIFFERENT SORT OF POWER FOR  
THOSE. IT'S WHY SHE COULDN'T USE WANDS BEFORE.

DID TEDD GO  
UPSTAIRS FOR  
CHOPSTICKS?

AS FOR UNDOING THE TRANSFORMATIONS, I KNOW HOW, BUT THE DOOR'S NOT CHARGED ENOUGH TO FIX EIGHT PEOPLE RIGHT AWAY

SO WE NEED TO CHARGE IT?

THAT'S ONE OPTION, BUT I HAVEN'T TESTED THE CHOPSTICKS YET.

I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA I WANT TO TEST

Note: Seers can undo most enchantments on themselves at will. Not on others, though.

YOUR REFLECTION...

THIS FORM IS CURRENTLY SELECTED FOR THE MIRROR'S USER TO TRANSFORM INTO...

...AND WHOEVER'S CLOSE TO THE MIRROR GETS REFLECTED IN THE SELECTED FORM AS A PREVIEW

AND, IF I PRESS THIS ON THE SIDE HERE...

...MY REFLECTION LOOKS LIKE JUST REGULAR JUSTIN.

IT STORES THE BEFORE AS WELL AS THE AFTER.

STILL LINES UP WITH THE FACE, THOUGH.

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT  
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT  
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT

THINKING ABOUT IT DARN IT



SO IF IT  
STORES THE  
BEFORE...

I'M NOT PLANNING TO  
ENCHANT EVERYONE WITH  
THEIR "BEFORE" FORMS

WAIT, I COULD  
ACTUALLY TURN  
INTO MANASE?

I WAS GOING TO  
SAY YOU MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO CONFIRM  
IF YOUR MOM USED  
THIS MIRROR.



BESIDES, THAT HAS THE SAME POWER CHARGE  
PROBLEM, THOUGH IT WOULD THEORETICALLY  
CANCEL OUT THE CURRENT ENCHANTMENTS.

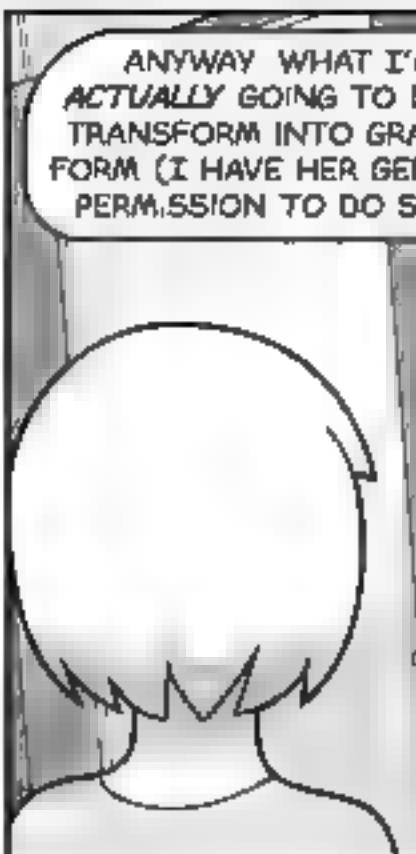
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT  
THINKING ABOUT IT

THAT HAD  
OCCURRED  
TO ME

ANYWAY WHAT I'M  
ACTUALLY GOING TO DO IS  
TRANSFORM INTO GRACE'S  
FORM (I HAVE HER GENERAL  
PERMISSION TO DO SO)

WOW  
JUSTIN  
TRIED A LOT  
OF FORMS.

...AND THEN I'LL  
CHECK TO SEE IF  
THE SPELL I ADDED  
TO THE DRUMSTICK  
WAND TO UNDO  
IT WORKS.



I GET IT YOU KNOW YOU CAN CHARGE THE WAND, AND SEVERAL OF JS CAN USE THE WAND EVEN IF IT'S OUT OF A CHARGE.

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, SUSAN? NO.

YOU CAN CHARGE IT UP IN VARIOUS WAYS, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A WAY TO SKIP THAT STEP AND JUST USE YOUR OWN POWER.

IS THE DOOR NOT LIKE A WAND? DOES IT NOT LET YOU USE YOUR OWN POWER TO USE IT?

I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S A BUG OR A FEATURE IF A WAND'S CHARGE IS TOO LOW SOME OF YOUR OWN MAGIC GETS USED.

HAVING TO USE THE DOOR'S STORED POWER PREVENTS USING ANY OF YOUR OWN BY ACCIDENT

SETTING THIS THING TO CHARGE FOR A BT BEFORE BED WOULD MAKE IT USABLE DAILY WHILE KEEPING YOUR OWN MAGIC FULLY CHARGED DURING ACTIVE HOURS.

Wand MP: 25 / 200



Spelcaster MP: 75 / 75



Wand MP: 0 / 200

Spelcaster MP: 0 / 75



ARE YOU THINKING YOUR MOM USED THIS EVERY DAY?

HERE'S MY HYPOTHESIS:

ARGH DOING MAKEUP AND HAIR EVERY DAY TAKES FOR-EVER BUT I DON'T WANT TO WASTE MAGIC ENERGY!

I HAVE FOR SALE A MAGIC MIRROR.

MONEY!

MAKES SENSE TO ME.

ARE MAKEUP WANDS A THING YOU COULD MAKE, OR ?



USING MAGIC TO DO HAIR AND MAKEUP QUICKLY MAKES SENSE.

...OKAY, YEAH,  
THAT'S FAIR.

AND I CAN MAKE A MAKEUP WAND BUT I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE DISTRIBUTING DRUMSTICK WANDS

USING A VOLATILE MAGIC ARTIFACT TO WHEN YOU'RE A WIZARD WHO DEFINITELY HAS PLENTY OF OTHER OPTIONS, AND THEN LEAVING IT BEHIND WITH YOUR CHILD WHEN YOU RUN OFF TO EUROPE, DOES NOT

ALSO FAIR.

MAGIC WATCHES MIGHT BE OKAY. I'VE ALREADY SHARED A FEW WAY EASIER TO HIDE. OR MAYBE A WRISTBAND, OR JEWELRY?

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO EXPAND INTO MORE TYPES OF WORN WANDS.

AH, THERE'S GRACE.

AND TOUCH THE MIRROR, AND...

...GRACE-A-FIED

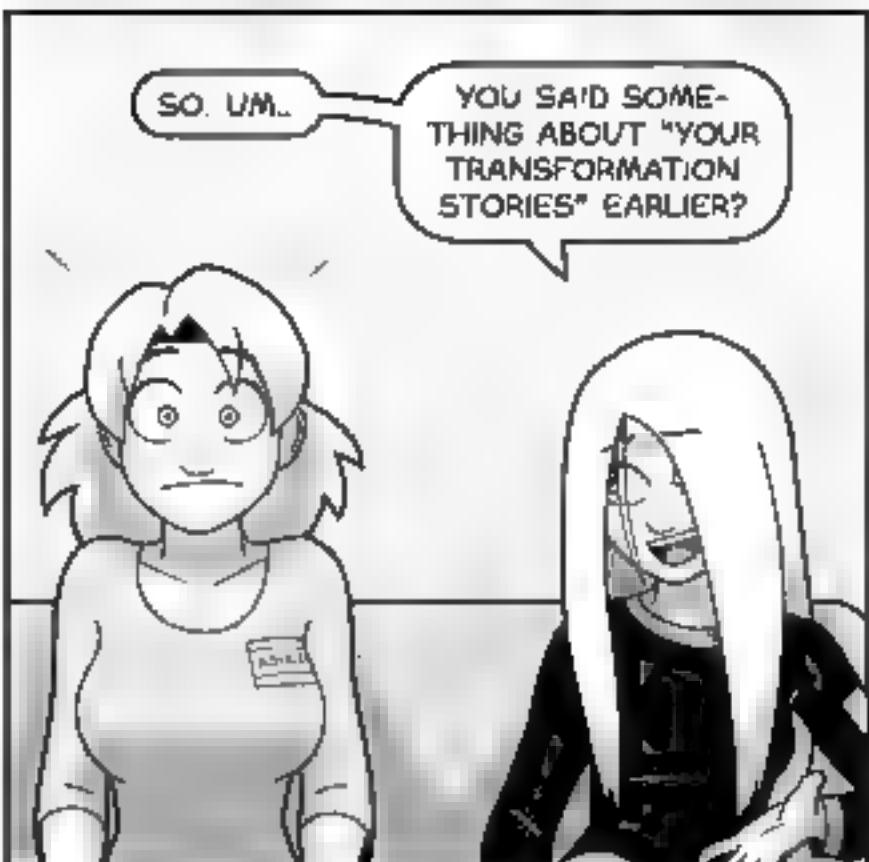
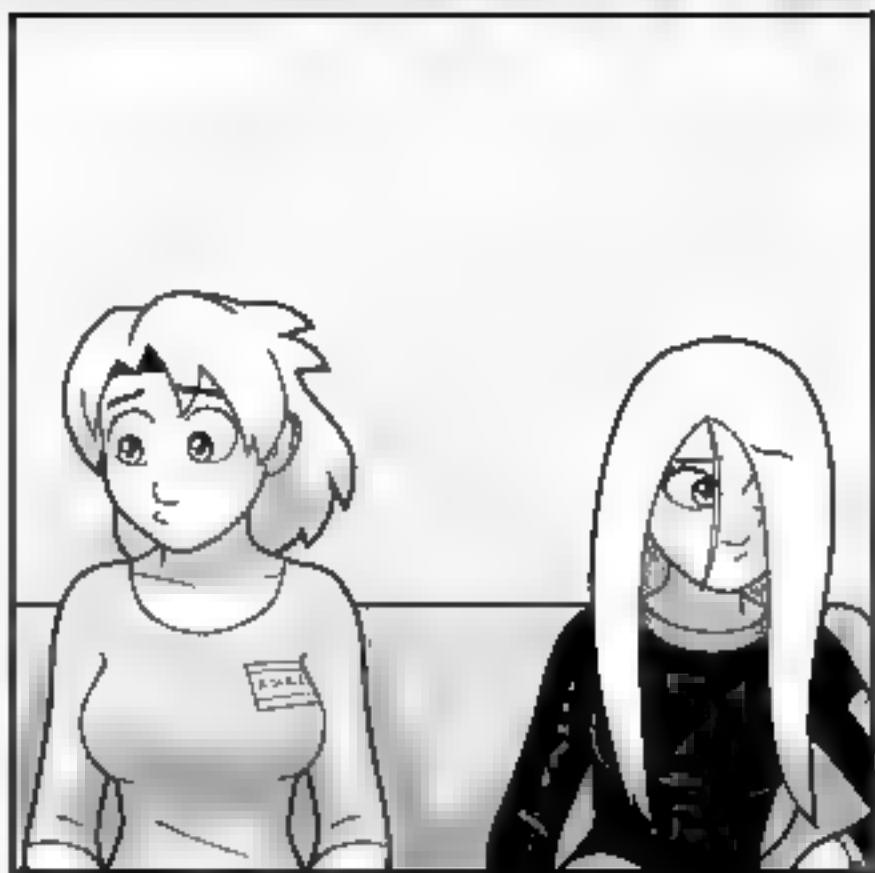
OOF SHOULD VE  
SEEN THE VISION  
CHANGE COMING.

YOU TRANSFORM BY TOUCHING THE MIRROR!

UM, YEAH?

THIS DOOR'S DESIGN IS A DISASTER.

A bit earlier, before Grace-a-fication...



I... WRITE TRANS-  
FORMATION STORIES.

LIKE, A LOT OF  
THEM, AND UM...



THEY'RE FULL OF  
SUGGESTIVE AND  
BLATANT THINGS  
AND IRONIC  
PUN SHMENTS AND  
KINKY NONSENSE



HOW  
ARE YOU  
TRASH?

YOU'RE JUST  
WRITING ABOUT  
YOUR PERSONAL  
FANTASIES.



THEY'RE  
WEIRD.

PERSONAL  
FANTASIES  
GET WEIRD!



I WANT HER TO  
PET MY BELLY  
WHILE I HAVE CAT  
EARS AND A TAIL.

IRONIC TRANSFOR-  
MATION PUNISHMENTS  
ARE CRUEL AND  
UNUSUAL!



EVEN IF I WRITE  
THAT THEY ENJOY  
THEM, AND EVEN  
THAT'S AN ISSUE

WHAT LIKE A JACKASS  
WOMANIZER GETS TRANS-  
FORMED AFTER CAT-CALLING  
A WITCH AND WINDS UP  
ENJOYING THEMSELVES?



UM... YEAH.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE VENTING WHILE INDULGING  
FANTASIES AND YOU BASICALLY JUST WANT  
EVERYONE TO BE NICE AND HAPPY

YOU WORK OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS BY BEING  
CREATIVE. YOU TAKE YOUR FEELINGS, AND YOU...

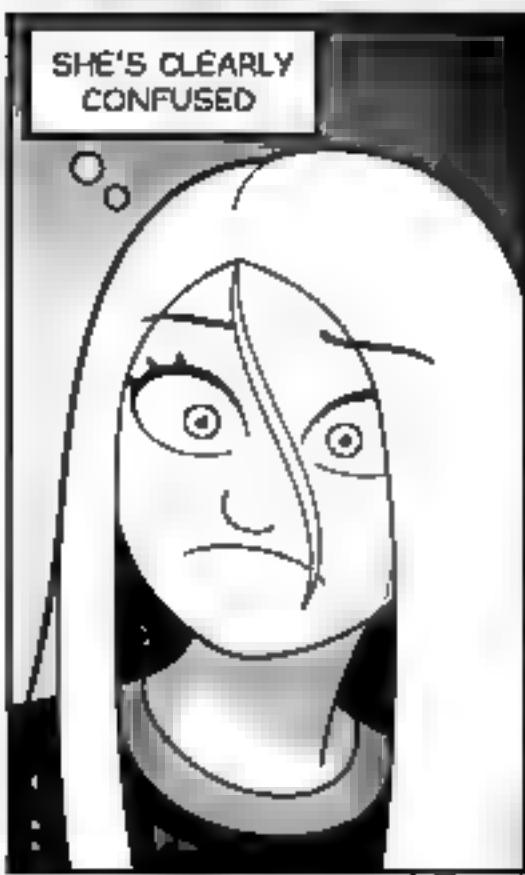


YOU DO SOMETHING  
CONSTRUCTIVE WITH THEM.

YOU KNOW WHAT I  
WANT TO DO WHEN I'M  
ANGRY WITH PEOPLE?

I WANT TO  
PUNCH THEM.





ELLIOT, I'M NOT SAYING IT'S GOOD TO GET INTO FIGHTS IF YOU DON'T NEED TO, OR DO MORE HARM THAN YOU HAVE TO DO, BUT YOU'RE CLEARLY A GOOD PERSON.

UM... NOT RECENTLY? WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...

WHEN YOU WERE A KID AND DIDN'T KNOW BETTER? YOU'RE NOT BAD FOR WANTING TO DO BAD THINGS!

BESIDES, ARE YOU EVEN GETTING INTO FIGHTS?

YOU'RE GOOD FOR NOT DOING THOSE THINGS!

YEAH,  
WELL,  
RIGHT BACK  
AT YOU,  
ASHLEY!

GASP

HOW  
DARE YOU  
I WRITE  
TERRIBLE  
THINGS

YOU'VE  
NEVER  
DONE ANY  
OF THOSE  
THINGS!

I'VE NEVER  
BEEN ABLE TO DO  
THOSE THINGS!  
BUT NOW I'M A  
WIZARD. AND  
WHO KNOWS  
WHAT I'LL BE  
ABLE TO DO?!

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER! I  
DON'T BELIEVE  
FOR A SECOND  
YOU WOULD!  
AND THE FACT  
THAT YOU HAVE  
THESE FEELINGS  
PROVES IT!

YEAH?!  
WELL,  
RIGHT BACK  
AT YOU  
ELLIOT!

GASP

**GLARE**

**GLARE**

**GLARRRRRRE**

I AM SO SORRY

I SHOULDN'T HAVE  
RAISED MY VOICE!

NO, I'M SORRY  
I SHOULDN'T HAVE  
RAISED MY VOICE.

ARE WE...  
TOO HARD ON  
OURSELVES?

MAYBE? I MEAN...  
YEAH, WE SORTA  
WANT TO DO BAD  
THINGS, BUT... WE  
DON'T, REALLY?

WE PRETTY  
SPECIFICALLY  
WANT TO NOT DO  
THE THINGS WE  
WANT TO DO.

YEAH! PLENTY  
OF PEOPLE WOULD  
WANT TO DO THOSE  
THINGS AND WANT  
TO DO THEM!

I SO WANT  
TO TRANSFORM  
PEOPLE LIKE  
THAT

I'D LIKE TO  
GIVE THEM A  
REAL SWIFT  
KICK.

NOT FOR  
REAL,  
THOUGH.

OH,  
DEFINITELY  
NOT FOR  
REAL.





© 2020, Dan Shive - egacomics.com

**Next story comic Monday, December 28th**

**TO BE CONCLUDED...**

Well, not, like, in the very next comic.  
This IS *EI Goonish Shive* we're talking about.  
But we're relatively close and stuff.

WAIT, "EXTRA-FEMININE"? YOU CAN DO THAT?

UM, YES... ELLEN?

IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME.

LIKE, THE RESULTS OF MY SPELL ARE AFFECTED BY HOW BOTH THE CASTER AND TARGET PERCEIVE MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY...

YES ELLEN, AND THAT'S MY THING!

...AND I'M PRETTY SURE IT CAN EVEN DEPEND ON THEIR MOODS, AND WHICH ONE FEELS MORE STRONGLY ABOUT THE OPINION...

SO THE RESULTS CAN REALLY VARY EVEN WITH THE SAME COMBINATION OF PEOPLE USING IT?

I MUST LEARN THE ZAPPY EQUIVALENT OF THIS SPELL.

I COULD PUT AN ENCHANTMENT-ONLY VERSION OF IT IN A WAND...

NO. IT MUST BE ZAPPY. THAT'S MY THING.

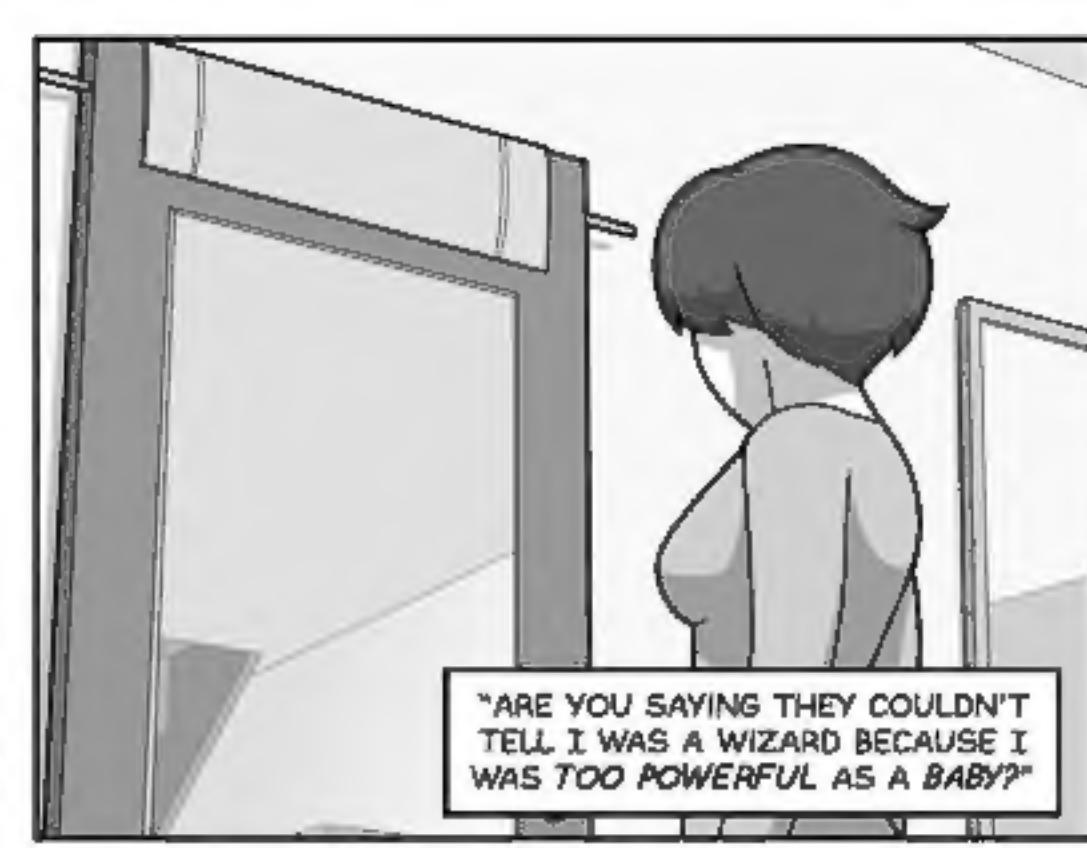
ELLEN, THE SOONER WE LET TEDD DO THIS, THE SOONER TEDD CAN PUT THAT SPELL IN A WAND AND WE CAN ALL PLAY AROUND WITH IT.

NANASE, YOU... WANT TO PLAY AROUND WITH THAT SPELL?

SURE. ASSUMING I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.

I MEAN, I-I GUESS I COULD, IF IT... UH...

OKAY. FINE. EVEN IF BEING DIFFICULT AND LOUD IS ALSO MY THING.



"ARE YOU SAYING THEY COULDN'T TELL I WAS A WIZARD BECAUSE I WAS TOO POWERFUL AS A BABY?"



"HA HA HA"

"HA HA HA  
HA HA! OH MAN!"



SEE, THIS IS THE PART WHERE THE AWKWARD SILENCE TOTALLY CONFIRMS IT.



THEY WERE FRIGHTENED FOR YOU. BOTH OF THEM HAVE ENEMIES.



THEY WANTED YOU ABLE TO DEFEND YOURSELF.



BIT OF A BLUNDER TO LEAVE THIS DOOR BEHIND IF YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT ME, MOM.

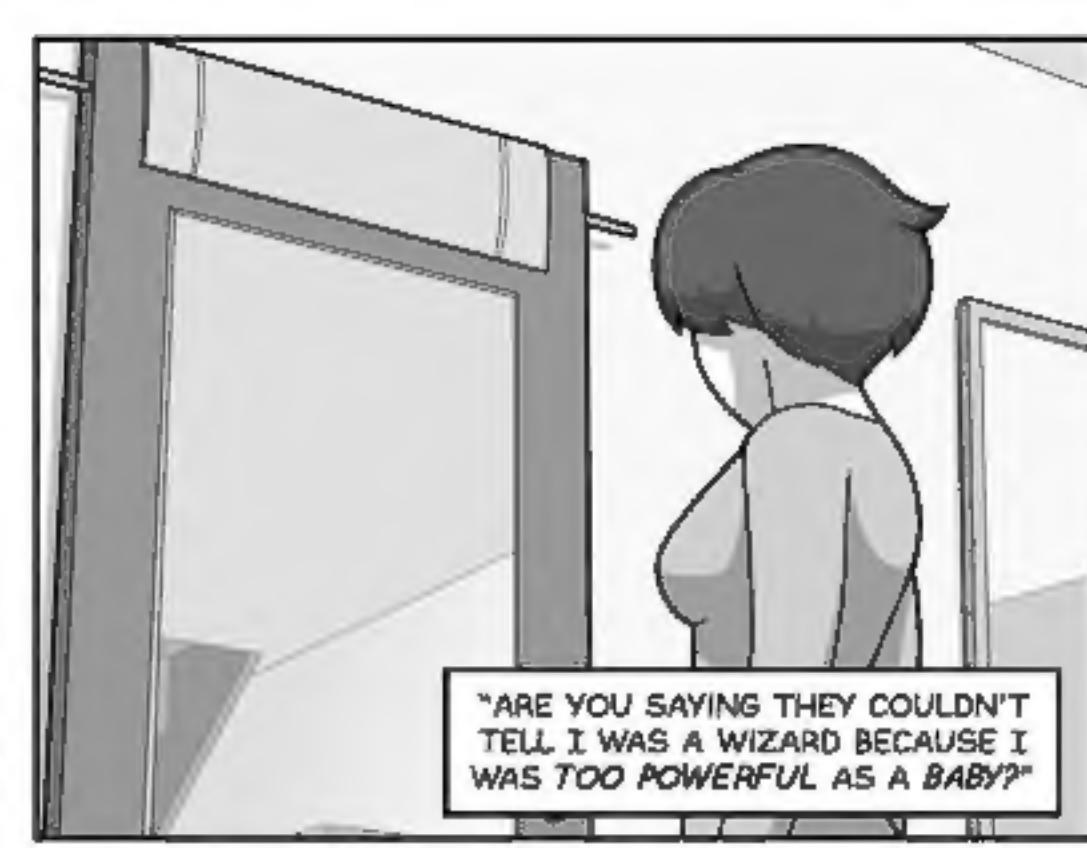


ASSUMING YOU ACTUALLY DID LEAVE BECAUSE OF HOW WEAK YOU THOUGHT I WAS.

AND HEY,  
SPEAKING OF BLUNDERS?



GUESS WHAT ELSE YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT.



"ARE YOU SAYING THEY COULDN'T TELL I WAS A WIZARD BECAUSE I WAS TOO POWERFUL AS A BABY?"



"HA HA HA"

"HA HA HA  
HA HA! OH MAN!"



SEE, THIS IS THE PART WHERE THE AWKWARD SILENCE TOTALLY CONFIRMS IT.



THEY WERE FRIGHTENED FOR YOU. BOTH OF THEM HAVE ENEMIES.



THEY WANTED YOU ABLE TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

BIT OF A BLUNDER TO LEAVE THIS DOOR BEHIND IF YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT ME, MOM.



ASSUMING YOU ACTUALLY DID LEAVE BECAUSE OF HOW WEAK YOU THOUGHT I WAS.

AND HEY,  
SPEAKING OF BLUNDERS?



GUESS WHAT ELSE YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT.